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East Asia

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East Asia

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Japan

Soviet Patrol Detains, Releases Boats

OW2607113891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1016 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Kushiro, Hokkaido, July 26 KYODO—A Soviet patrol boat captured two Japanese fishing boats Friday in waters off the Soviet- held Kunashiri Island, off the eastern tip of Hokkaido, Maritime Safety Agency officials said.

Nine fishermen were on the ships—the No. 1 Kokusei Maru and the No. 58 Kotobuki Maru, both 4.9 tons.

They said the Soviet boat captured the two vessels around 1 P.M., five hours after inspecting them in waters some 24 kilometers east of Kunashiri Island, an area the Soviet Union claims is within its territorial waters.

The Soviet Union has held Kunashiri Island along with Shikotan, Etorofu, and the Habomais since World War II.

The Japanese ships left their home port of Rausu in eastern Hokkaido early Friday.

Officials Protest EC Duty on Alleged Dumping

OW2607082891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0344 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Geneva, July 26 KYODO—Japan on Thursday shot back at the European Community (EC)'s dumping duties imposed on blank audio cassettes from Japan, saying it is groundless to impose such duties, Japanese officials said.

Tokyo lodged the protest when Japanese and EC trade negotiators met here for the first time to discuss the alleged dumping issue involving blank audio cassettes from Japan, South Korea, and Hong Kong, they said.

In May last year, the EC Commission decided to impose antidumping duties on audio cassette imports from Japan and the two other Asian nations on the grounds that they were being sold at unreasonably low prices.

The decision followed an inquiry launched after audio cassette makers in France and the former West Germany complained in November 1988 that their prices were being unfairly undercut by the imports.

The Japanese negotiators told their EC counterparts that the EC action was taken without clear evidence of such an unfair sales practice, the officials said.

Five Japanese companies are inolved in the case. They are TDK Corp., Sony Corp., Hitachi Maxell Ltd., Nippon Columbia Co., and Fuji Photo Film Co.

Okinawa Governor: U.S. 'Should Reduce' Forces

OW2607001391 Tokyo KYODO in English 2332 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Washington, July 25 KYODO—The United States should reduce its forces in Okinawa, prefectural governor Masahide Ota said Thursday at a Washington news conference.

Ota is on a three-day visit to the U.S. to appeal directly to the U.S. Government on the matter, after evoking little response from Japanese Government officials.

The Okinawa delegation met with officials from the Pentagon, the State Department and Congress, including Gen. Carl Mundy, commandant of the Marine Corps, Adm. Michael McDevitt, director of the East Asia and Pacific Region at the Department of Defense, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary I. Desaix Anderson of the State Department, and Rep. Pat Schroeder, chairwoman of the House subcommittee on military installations.

Ota is hoping for the complete removal of U.S. Forces from Okinawa, but at present he is pressing for the immediate closure of an urban combat training facility, various parachute drop areas, and the U.S. Army's Naha port.

Ota also voiced his concerns on the possible transfer of military personnel and equipment to Okinawa as a result of the closing of Clark Air Base in the Philippines.

He vowed he will continue pressing the matter with U.S. officials who so far have promised only to review his requests.

Ota's trip to Washington was the third visit by an Okinawa governor to request the reduction of U.S. Forces in the prefecture.

Annual Defense Report Released 26 Jul

OW2607021391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0150 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 26 KYODO—Soviet forces in East Asia remain formidable and are at the root of a severe military situation in the region, the Defense Agency said in an annual report released Friday.

While the Soviet Union has reduced the size of its forces in East Asia, it has increased their quality, the White Paper on Defense said.

Over the past two years, the Kremlin has deployed its most modern military equipment—such as T-80 tanks, Oscar II class nuclear-powered submarines, and nuclear weapon-equipped Slava class cruisers—in East Asia, said the report, titled "Defense of Japan 1991."

Moscow has also increased the number of its medium-range backfire bombers in the region, the agency said.

The Soviet Union has stationed 38 of its 175 armed divisions, about 75 of its 240 warships, some 105 of its

290 submarines and 2,060 of its some 8,380 fighters and bombers in East Asia, the report said.

This year's report is the second in a row to make no mention of a potential Soviet "threat" to Asia.

The Soviet Union is now in a difficult position to stage aggressive action against other countries because of its domestic situation and the international environment, the report said.

The Soviet economy is teetering on the verge of collapse, and most of Moscow's former communist allies have moved toward capitalism.

The agency called the political and military situation in Asia and the Pacific "much more complicated" than in Europe, saying the region has more diversity in race, history, culture and religion.

The report made no mention of the fighting between Serbs and Croats in Yugoslavia, one of several recent ethnic clashes in Eastern Europe.

The cold war has thawed much more completely in Europe, the report said, noting the unification of Germany, the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and the disappearance of the Warsaw Pact as a military alliance.

In Asia, the Cambodian problem has yet to be resolved, and North and South Korea still confront each other, the report noted.

The agency said the pillar of Japanese defense remains the Japan- U.S. Security Treaty, which it called indispensable for the country's independence and prosperity.

The treaty has guaranteed peace and security not only in Japan but in Asia as a whole, the report said.

In a chapter called "The People's Self-Defense Forces (SDF)," which a senior Defense Agency official said was included for the first time this year, the agency called on the Japanese people to achieve a better understanding of the SDF, Japan's military.

The report, saying the people do not necessarily understand the SDF, emphasized the organization's role in relief work after natural disasters in Japan and in scientific missions to Antarctica.

The SDF should also respond to natural disasters overseas and take part in United Nations peacekeeping operations as a "necessary contribution to international society," the report said.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party is working on a bill that would allow the SDF to join U.N. operations. The proposal is a touchy one in Japan, where the war-renouncing Constitution has generally been interpreted as barring the overseas dispatch of the SDF.

Some opposition parties argued that the SDF itself violates the Constitution, which renounced "the threat or use of force as a means of settling international disputes" and said "land, sea and air forces...will never be maintained."

The report said the SDF is needed to defend the country's independence and protect it in case of invasion.

Turning to relations between the United States and the Soviet Union, the report said the balance of power between them continues to deter nuclear war.

But the relaxation of tensions between the two superpowers has made it easier for regional conflicts to break out, the report said.

The report also called for the strengthening of the United Nations to deter regional conflicts.

The Defense Agency has issued the report almost every year since 1970.

'Gist' of Annual Report

OW2607023491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0201 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 26 KYODO—The following is the gist of "Defense of Japan 1991," an annual report released Friday by the Defense Agency.

(International Situation)

The military situation includes uncertain elements in Asia. The Soviet Union is facing crises. The military and political situation in Asia and the Pacific is much more complicated than in Europe.

The military situation in the Far East remains severe despite the end of the cold war, as the Soviet Union has reduced its forces quantitatively in the region but boosted them qualitatively.

(European Situation)

Europe has achieved drastic changes in mutual understanding and harmony between countries. The prospects are not good for Soviet domestic reforms as productivity has slowed down, sharp inflation has worsened living standards, and racial rifts have widened.

(Washington and Moscow)

The Soviet structural economic slump has made it difficult for Moscow to step up its military capabilities and expand its influence. But the Kremlin is making efforts to modernize its military to maintain an equilibrium with the United States.

The United States has adopted military policies centering on the strengthening of credible strategic deterrence and defense capabilities, forward deployment forces in peacetime and conventional forces to counter possible regional conflicts.

(Third World)

International society should step up the United Nations' functions to deter regional wars such as that in the Persian Gulf.

Japan hopes international society will make more effort to prevent the proliferation and the transfer of high-powered military equipment, and weapons of mass destruction.

(Asian Military Situation)

The military situation in the region remains severe despite Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's pledge during his April visit to Japan to reduce Soviet forces in the northern territories.

The Korean peninsula remains tense, with a total of 1.4 million troops from North and South Korea facing each other.

(Japan's Defense Policy)

Japan has maintained a basic defense policy of preventing aggression in advance by sticking to the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty.

Japan will never become a big military power and will maintain the minimum military capability necessary to defend itself.

(SDF in the Gulf)

Four Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) minesweepers and two support ships were dispatched to the Persian Gulf following the end of the Gulf war to clear mines.

(Conclusion)

The cold war is over, but the post cold war era embraces various uncertainties. Japan will continue its defense efforts, coupled with the maintenance and strengthening of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty.

It is high time that the Japanese people consider whether the SDF is able to participate in UN peacekeeping operations. This is a national task and the world is watching the Japanese people's actions.

Nakayama Returns Home From Philippines

OW2607093391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0801 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 26 KYODO—Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama returned home from the Philippines on Friday, winding up a 16-day trip during which he attended the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) expanded foreign ministers' meeting.

Nakayama also attended the London summit of seven leading economic powers prior to the ASEAN meeting. He also visited Ireland before attending the July 15-17 London summit.

Ministry To Distribute Antiterrorism Booklet

OW2607013991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0042 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 26 KYODO—In the face of continued terrorist attacks on Japanese nationals and people of Japanese descent in Peru, the Foreign Ministry said Friday it has compiled a 10-page booklet of antiterrorist strategies for Japanese working overseas.

"Questions and Answers on Terrorist Attacks for Japanese Headed Overseas for Business" provides the reader with information about terrorist attacks; tips on recognizing letter, parcel, and car bombs; and advice on how to handle situations.

A first run of 3,000 copies will be distributed to firms with employees overseas, the Foreign Ministry said, adding that additional printings are being scheduled along with plans to make an antikidnaping book and video.

According to the antiterrorist agencies in the U.S. State Department, 455 incidents of international terrorism occurred throughout the world last year and more than 60 percent of these were bombings.

Since 1986, there have been 11 cases of terrorism directed at Japanese nationals, the Foreign Ministry said, with one person killed and seven seriously injured in the incidents.

Earlier this month, however, terrorists in Peru killed three Japanese aid workers and two Peruvian businessmen of Japanese descent.

Further on Reaction to Securities Scandal

Kaifu Remarks

OW2607083291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0803 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 26 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Friday that firms that received compensation from brokerages for stock market losses should reveal themselves, but that if this does not happen the scandal would be addressed in parliament.

"There is strong public demand that the names of the firms be identified. The companies should respond voluntarily," Kaifu said in his first extensive public comments on the widening brokerage scandal since it surfaced last month.

"If this is not possible, the Diet will have to take it up," he said in an address to a meeting of managing editors of member newspapers of KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

At a House of Representatives Finance Committee meeting Thursday, Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said his ministry could not reveal the names of some 200 firms that received compensation from Japan's "big four" brokerages and six second-tier firms due to his obligation as a public servant to maintain confidentiality.

Kaifu said that stricter legal measures would be necessary to prevent a recurrence of the scandal since the usual Finance Ministry practice of issuing nonbinding memoranda had not been effective.

But he urged the nation not to get bogged down in debate over the differences in systems with the United States.

Business leaders have been calling for establishment of a watchdog organization like the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), but Hashimoto has argued that such a system would be inappropriate for Japan due to different organizational approaches.

If adopted, the watchdog group would also impinge on the regulatory power now exercised by the Finance Ministry.

"The issue is how we can guarantee a fair system," Kaifu said. Kaifu said he has asked a governmental advisory group on administrative reform to provide recommendations on the issue.

"In the immediate future we can increase inspectors, but I want this to be studied from a medium and long-term perspective," Kaifu said he told Eiji Suzuki, head of the ad hoc panel on administrative reform.

Kaifu said he hoped the scandal would be debated simultaneously with bills for political reform in the upcoming parliamentary session, opening on August 5.

Asked about his aspirations for a second stint as prime minister after his two-year term as ruling Liberal Democratic Party president ends in October, Kaifu replied he is not thinking beyond the end of his term.

Trade Minister on Ethics

OW2607082291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0345 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 26 KYODO—Eiichi Nakao, minister of international trade and industry, said Friday the government will encourage businesses to promote ethics and social responsibility.

Nakao made the remark in connection with the sweeping stock scandal stemming from massive payouts by brokerages to favored clients to make up for stock trading losses.

He said the government will cooperate with business organizations in encouraging corporations to promote ethical standards and social responsibility.

Nakao added that the government's advisory panels, including the Industrial Structure Council, will discuss measures to control excessive investment in real estate and securities by corporations.

Hashimoto Denies Report

OW2607080791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0331 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 26 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto denied Friday a newspaper report that the ministry has decided to disclose by July 30 information on recipients of reimbursements for stock trading losses from brokerages.

Whether the Finance Ministry should reveal the identities of the favored clients was the focal point at the House of Representatives Finance Committee on Thursday, where Diet members from both ruling and opposition camps questioned the ministry for its responsibility for the latest stock scandals.

Hashimoto told a press conference after a cabinet meeting that he is considering revealing more information about the number of companies which received compensation and the amount of reimbursements on a sector-by-sector basis, but added no decision has been made yet.

Asked about another financial scandal involving fraudulent deals by employees of Fuji Bank, and a similar affair involving employees of the former Saitama Bank which merged with Kyowa Bank, Hashimoto said ethics must be low in the financial industry, considering the recent revelations of scandals.

He is concerned that the series of scandals will further erode public confidence in financial businesses, he said.

LDP Leader on Companies

OW2507165891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1433 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 25 KYODO—Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Secretary General Keizo Obuchi urged the Finance Ministry on Thursday to ensure the early release of the names of companies major securities houses reimbursed for investment losses, LDP officials said.

Obuchi called in the director of the Finance Ministry Secretariat, Yasusuke Shinozawa, and instructed him to consider how the lists could best be released.

This follows pressure mainly from opposition parties for the disclosure of lists of such favored clients at a meeting Thursday of the House of Representatives' Finance Committee.

The LDP is also afraid that its public image will be further tarnished unless it acts on the issue, officials said.

Obuchi is faced with several alternatives, including release of the lists by the Finance Ministry, their release by the securities companies, and voluntary disclosure by the clients.

He also indicated the government would have to clarify the criteria it would use if the lists are made public.

Japan's four major securities houses have admitted refunding over 120 billion yen to many of their major clients for their stock and bond trading losses.

Ministry To List Industries

OW2607004291 Tokyo KYODO in English 2319 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 26 KYODO—The Finance Ministry next Tuesday will give a Diet committee a list of the industries involved in the ongoing stocks scandal but will not identify individual companies involved, a ministry official said early Friday.

The decision is in line with the position of ministry officials at Thursday's hearing before the House of Representatives' Finance Committee.

In replying before the committee Thursday, Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and other officials declined to disclose the identity of the corporations, and instead called on the brokerage houses to disclose the names of companies that received compensation.

The brokerages compensated their favored corporate clients for investment losses suffered mainly when the Tokyo stock market crashed in 1987 and again in 1989.

The lower house committee began long-awaited hearings Thursday on the brokerage scandal, which involves the "big four" brokerages—Nomura Securities Co., Daiwa Securities Co., Nikko Securities Co. and Yamaichi Securities Co.—and six second-tier brokerage houses whose names have yet to be disclosed.

Former Saitama Bank Involved in Loan Scandal

OW2607004691 Tokyo KYODO in English 2358 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 26 KYODO—The former Saitama Bank issued fake deposit receipts to help its clients borrow several billion yen from a nonbanking finance company, industry sources said Friday.

According to the sources, the alleged fraudulent acts took place three to four years ago, and an internal investigation has been completed.

The Saitama Bank merged with Kyowa Bank in April, becoming the Saitama Kyowa Bank.

Thursday a similar case was exposed at Fuji Bank, where three senior branch officials, already dismissed, allegedly issued fake deposit receipts as a collateral to finance a 260 billion yen loan from a finance institution.

Saitama Kyowa Bank will hold a press meeting Friday morning in connection with the scandal.

Export Contracts Decline During 6 Months

OW2607122991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0948 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 26 KYODO—Export contracts signed by 19 major Japanese trading firms in the first half of 1991 fell 8.6 percent from a year earlir—the sharpest drop since the second half of 1986, a trade industry group reported Friday.

The Japan Foreign Trade Council said the fall to 7,463.6 billion yen is the largest in a half-year period since a 17.9 percent drop registered in the July-December period of 1986.

The council said the fall resulted in part from a slump in plant exports to the Middle East and Southeast Asia in the wake of the Persian Gulf war.

While import contracts concluded during the same period increased 2.4 percent to 9,401.1 billion yen, food and textile imports remained slow, the council said.

Council officials said prospects for trade contracts in the current second half of the year from July are unclear because of uncertainties over a U.S. economic recovery, crude oil prices, and international exchange rates.

Among export contracts, machinery decreased 7.4 percent. Within this category plant exports fell 27.6 percent while car exports to the 12-nation European Community (EC) increased along with tanker exports to northern Europe and Africa.

Within metals contracted for export, steel decreased 10.8 percent, with demand slow in the United States and Southeast Asia.

Chemicals for export dropped 18.7 percent.

Among import contracts, machinery soared 27.3 percent due mainly to brisk demand for aircraft from the U.S. and EC and demand for computers from the U.S.

Import contracts for fuels, metals, and chemicals held firm, while those for food, textiles, and lumber decreased.

The council also reported export contracts made by the major trading houses in June decreased 1.4 percent from a year earlier to 1,066.3 billion yen. Import contracts were up 11.2 percent at 1,699.1 billion yen.

6-Month Steel Imports, Exports Increase

OW2607105391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1005 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 26 KYODO—Japan's imports of ordinary rolled steel jumped 23.2 percent to 3,815,000 tons in the first half of 1991 from a year earlier, the highest for a six-month period, the Japan Iron and Steel Federation said Friday.

In June, steel imports surged 77.8 percent from the same month last year to 665,000 tons, the federation said.

Meanwhile, exports during the first six months rose 9.2 percent to 8,831,000 tons. Shipments in june increased 10.1 percent to 1,577,000 tons.

On the six-month basis, imports increased notably in wire rods, up 64.6 percent, and in cold rolled coils, up 47.2 percent. Wide hot rolled strips rose 24.6 percent.

In exports, seamless pipes rose 23.7 percent, galvanized sheets rose 13.0 percent, and cold rolled coils grew 18.3 percent, the federation said.

Exports to the United States and the Soviet Union dropped, down 7.7 percent and 1.1 percent respectively. On the other hand, exports to South Korea rose 49.3 percent, to Taiwan 35.3 percent, and to China 17.3 percent.

Nippon, Toyota Agree on Steel Sheet Price Hike

OW2607120691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1124 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 26 KYODO—The top Japanese steelmaker, Nippon Steel Corp. (NSC), agreed Friday with the top Japanese steel user, Toyota Motor Corp., to raise the cost of steel sheets from October 1 by an average of nearly 5 percent, or about [words indictinct] yen per metric ton, reliable sources said.

NSC and other major Japanese steelmakers in mid-April notified Toyota Motor and other major steel users that they wish to raise the price of steel sheets by an average 5 percent from July 1.

Electrical manufacturers accepted the price increase relatively early but automakers offered strong resistance to the proposed raise in the face of a slowdown in their domestic sales and exports.

However, Nippon Steel reached a broad agreement with Toyota Motor on the size and date of a price increase in the wake of mutual concessions.

The raise in steel sheet prices is the first since 1982.

Other Japanese steelmakers, automakers, and electrical manufacturers are also close to agreement and are likely to reach a price settlement by early August, industry sources said.

Nuclear Reactor for Therapy Developed

OW2607115591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0955 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo, July 26 KYODO—Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. said Friday the company and Kobe University's School of Medicine have jointly completed a conceptual design for a nuclear reactor for therapeutic purposes that is designed to cure skin cancer and malignant brain tumors.

Officials said neutrons generated by the reactor are used in the treatment.

Kyoto University, among others, is using a research reactor to give similar treatment but the reactor has only a limited capacity for treatment, the officials said. This treatment is given only in Japan.

Mitsubishi said it is ready to start basic designing and production of a medical reactor as soon as it receives an order for one.

The reactor will cost billions to tens of billions of yen, depending on specifications, the officials said.

According to the conceptual design, the reactor will consist of a reactor core, a core cooling system, systems for horizontal and vertical irradiation, and a monitoring unit.

They said it will be able to give treatment at the same time to three patients and to handle 18 patients a day.

North Korea

South's Rejection of 'Consolatory Teams' Viewed

SK2407045391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0418 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 24 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities on July 20 let the "spokesman for the Unification Board" to declare that the consolatory teams from the North would not be allowed to travel the South.

Commenting on this, a NODONG SINMUN analyst today says:

Our proposal is a compatriotic and humanitarian step reflecting the unanimous will of the entire people in the northern half of the country who value and love the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and woman student Yim Su-kyong as their flesh and blood.

In offering to dispatch consolatory teams, we took note of the fact that the South Korean chief executive said he would allow the visit of figures from the North to the South while making a more heated use of the words of "reunification", "improvement of relations" and "harmony" than ever before.

The South Korean authorities, however, refused to accept our offer to dispatch consolatory teams. This is an anti-national, anti-ethical criminal act going against the desire of the fellow countrymen for reunification.

It is the height of impudence for the South Korean authorities, while keeping behind bars such pro-reunification patriots who can not be incriminated and

must not be incriminated, to cry that the consolation visit to them is to "destory" their "law and order".

If the South Korean "law and order" would be destroyed by the dispatch of our consolatory teams, such "law and order" are quite unnecessary for national reconciliation, unity and reunification.

The South Korean authorities must stop fooling the fellow countrymen with empty talk about "reunification" but accept our compatriotic and humanitarian offer to dispatch consolatory teams.

Consolatory Team Head Meets With Reporters

SK2507154991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1526 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Panmunjom July 25 (KCNA)—The consolatory team of school youth and children which arrived here today to console reunification envoys including coed Yim Su-kyong and the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan was barred from going over to South Korea by the South Korean authorities' obstructions.

In this regard, head of the team, Choe Hyon-tok, chairman of the Korean Students Committee, met with reporters.

He told them that the team rang up the South side six times while waiting here in full readiness to go over to the South.

According to him, the team sent to the South the following telephone message clarifying our stand:

Firstly, considering the South side's allegation that coed Yim Su-kyong and the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan violated the "law in force" means the "law" of the South side is an anti-reunification law, we hold that they should immediately abolish the "National Security Law," an anti-reunification law.

Secondly, it should frankly admit that its talking about the "August 15 grand reunification march" while refusing to accept our consolatory team composed of no more than 20 members is a lie and apologize for this to the nation.

Thirdly, if it truly desires national reconciliation and unity, it should not block our righteous act in intending to console woman student Yim Su-kyong and other visitors to the North and ensure our passage through Panmunjom without delay.

Fourthly, it will be held wholly responsible for the ensuing consequences, if it refuses to accept the demands of our consolatory team.

South's Blocking of Consolatory Team Denounced

SK2607074091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0514 GMT 26 Jul 91

["Villainous Behaviour Ignoring Compatriotism"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang July 26 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today denounces the South Korean rulers' blocking the consolatory team of school youth and children from going to South Korea through Panmunjom on July 25 as an anti-national criminal act of violating humanitarianism and compatriotism.

The 20-member consolatory team, waiting at Panmunjom, demanded six times through telephone calls that the South side take an affirmative measure to allow the consolatory visit, but it did not open the passage to the South, the news analyst says, and continues:

It is not that the South Korean rulers' blocking the way of the consolatory team to the South ieft sore wounds only in the hearts of its members.

This is an unpardonable criminal act of pouring cold water on the ardent feelings of all the youths, children and people in the northern half of the country who treasure and love the reunification messengers of the South out of the warm desire for the country's reunification and an anti-national, anti-reunificaiton criminal act of blocking the way of harmony, unity and reunification of the fellow countrymen.

No Tae-u recently talked noisily about "national reconciliation", "celebrations of the liberation day" and the like, pretending to be interested in developing exchanges between the North and the South, and the "minister of Unification Board" also proposed to jointly sponsor "a grand reunification march" with August 15 as an occasion. But, by barring the consolatory visit, the South Korean rulers self-exposed that everything on their lips is a lie and another maladroit political trick to block the '91 pan- national rally and the grand reunification festival of students.

How can one think that the South Korean puppets who refuse to accept a small consolatory team composed of no more than 20 youth and children have the intention to sponsor a grand reunification march involving more than 1,000 persons?

If the South Korean authorities really want reunification, they must not block the way of the consolatory team.

South's Reunification Activities Proposals Noted

SK2407051891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0448 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 24 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today brands the August 15 "grand reunification march" and the like proposed recently by the South

Korean authorities as another trick to block the second pan-national rally and the grand reunification festival of students.

This was made clear when the South Korean authorities on July 20 let the chairman of the "Consultative Council of National Reunification" propose a preparatory meeting to discuss the question of "holding a grand reunification march", totally excluding pro-reunification patriotic and democratic organisations such as the Pan-Korean Alliance for National Reunification (Pomminnyon) and the National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop), organisations directly concerned with the pan-national rally, a news analyst of the paper says, and continues:

As for the 91 pan-national rally, it is a nationwide reunification festivity and arena of reunification negotiation arranged with the energetic efforts of broad pro-reunification patriotic forces in the North, the South and overseas and Pomminnyon, their alliance, not by the subjective will of one side.

When the pan-national rally is held as scheduled, the "functions of the grand reunification march" proposed by the South Korean authorities will smoothly take place within its framework and the reunification festival will take a more grand scale.

It is ridiculous of the South Korean authorities to cry for "grand reunification march", persistently refusing the pan-national rally whose preparations have been stepped up from long ago, far from rendering encouragement and assistance to it.

In proposing the "grand reunification march", the South Korean authorities seek the criminal purpose of opposing it to the pan-national rally and thus foil the reunification festivity at whatever cost. This fully shows that there is no change in the anti-democratic, anti-reunification, anti-national stand of the South Korean rulers to block dialogue of people of all strata for reunification and monopolize the dialogue for a sinister political purpose under the motto of "unified channel".

No matter how desperately the South Korean rulers may try, patriotic reunification-oriented forces in the North, the South and overseas will successfully hold the '91 pan-national rally and the grand reunification festival of students.

The South Korean authorities should change their attitude before it is too late and cooperate in and ensure the pan-national rally and the grand reunification festival of students.

Letter to Bereaved Families in South Adopted

SK2507122891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1114 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 25 (KCNA)—"A letter to the bereaved families of those who fell in the struggle for independence, democracy and reunification in South Korea" was adopted at the emergency enlarged meeting of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland held here today.

The grim situation of fascist repression created in South Korea these days under the cloak of "security-oriented policy" evokes hatred of your brothers and sisters in the North of the same ancestry and gives rise to deep apprehensions among honest-minded people of the world, the letter says, and continues:

When you and brothers and sisters in the South fight with one might and purpose in concerted efforts to [word indistinct] away the U.S. imperialists, the midwife of the South Korean dictatorial "regime" and the very one responsible for all misfortunes of our nation, and achieve national reunification by the efforts of the nation itself, no one in the world would be able to break your strength.

Though the fascist dictators are going on the rampage now, it is the last-ditch effort of those facing death and the final victory is in store for you struggling for independence, democracy and reunification.

We will support and encourage your righteous patriotic struggle in every way and always stand in the same fighting ranks with you.

We firmly believe that you will bravely wage the anti-U.S., anti-fascist patriotic struggle till the day when you will greet the new morning of a reunified motherland, a new society, independent and democratic.

Overseas Pomminnyon To Send Delegates to Seoul

SK2507061691 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0459 GMT 25 Jul 91

["South Korean Authorities Must Join in '91 PNR"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang July 25 (KCNA)—If the South Korean authorities really want to celebrate the "August 15 Liberation Day" as a joint reunification festival of the nation, they must, first of all, adopt a bold decision to join in the '91 Pan-National Rally [PNR] sponsored by the Pan-Korean Alliance for National Reunification (Pomminnyon) and cooperate in the work of the rally, instead of trying to hold functions independent of the PNR, said Yun Yi-sang, chairman of the Overseas Headquarters of Pomminnyon, in a statement issued in Berlin in regard to the August 15 PNR.

Noting that the South Korean authorities proposed to hold "August 15 joint festivities of the nation" in a "statement toward the North" at a time when preparations for the historical '91 Seoul PNR are being pushed forward in real earnest amid the deep interest of Koreans at home and abroad, he said this cannot be construed otherwise than a crafty political intrigue to create confusion in the way of the PNR which was initiated and is being promoted by the people, by the nation on a grand scale and make it abortive.

The Overseas Headquarters of Pomminnyon will make every possible effort for a successful holding of the Seoul PNR and, agreeing to the proposal of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland to hold the second preparatory meeting for the PNR in Seoul from July 25 for the present, will send its 7-men ber delegation to Seoul, declared Yun Yi-sang.

Reunification Group Protests South 'Suppression'

SK2607111691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1037 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 26 (KCNA)—The North side's headquarters of the Pan-Korean Alliance for National Reunification (Pomminnyon) strongly protests against the South Korean authorities' obstructions to dialogue and brutal suppression of the members of the preparatory committee for the formation of the South side's headquarters of Pomminnyon, considering them an intolerable challenge to the desire and aspiration of all the fellow countrymen for reunification and an anti-reunification, anti-national criminal act of opposing national reunification and seeking division.

The North side's headquarters of Pomminnyon said this in a protest today denouncing the South Korean authorities for obstructing the August 15 Seoul pan-nationa rally (PNR).

Noting that the Seoul PNR is a great festival for national unity and reunification aimed at putting spurs on the grand march of the nation toward reunification in the '90s, it says that if the rally is held successfully in Seoul, it will open a new phase in achieving national reunification in the '90s.

Charging that the South Korean authorities are laying obstacles in the way of preparations for the rally, intensifying crackdown on the members of the preparatory committee for the formation of the South side's headquarters of Pomminnyon, the protest goes on:

Such moves of the South Korean authorities are premeditated, deliberate criminal acts designed to foil the Seoul PNR and block the unity of pro-reunification patriotic forces and the development of the reunification movement, fearing the people.

The North side's headquarters of Pomminnyon strongly holds that the South Korean authorities should immediately stop their criminal acts of challenging the whole nation's desire for reunification and implement the following points:

Firstly, the South Korean authorities must end the fascist "security-oriented rule," abolish the anti-reunification "National Security Law" and unconditionally ensure free contacts between the peoples of broad strata in the North, South and overseas who will play host to the August 15 reunification festival.

Secondly, they must immediately stop suppressing the members of the preparatory committee for the formation of the South side's headquarters of Pomminnyon and unconditionally release the unwarrantably arrested Pomminnyon-related personages and pro-reunification patriotic figures.

Thirdly, they must provide necessary conditions without delay for the holding of the '91 PNR and grand reunification festival of students which are willed by the nation and desired by the fellow countrymen.

If they continue suppressing Pomminnyon-related personages and obstructing preparations for the rally despite unanimous protests and accusations of people at home and abroad, they would be held wholly responsible for all the consequences arising therefrom.

South Said Frustrating Pannational Rally

SK2607061591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0504 GMT 26 Jul 91

["Crafty Attempts To Frustrate Reunification Festival"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang July 26 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in a signed commentary today hits out at the South Korean rulers' crafty attempts to frustrate the '91 pan-national rally (PNR) and grand reunification festival of students in the North, the South and overseas.

The news analyst says:

The South Korean rulers refer to the Pan-Korean Alliance for National Reunification (Pomminnyon) and South Korean organizations related to it and the National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop) as organizations without "representative authority" and allege that any contact between the North and these "specific organizations" "runs counter to reconciliation and unity." This is a nonsensical argument.

It is publicly recognized that organizations related to Pomminnyon including the Coalition for National Democratic Movement (Chonminnyon) and Chondaehyop are patriotic democratic ones which are taking the lead in the movement for national reunification.

It is natural for us to hold grand reunification festivities with such organizations which aspire after reunification, and nobody can be justified in haggling over it.

The South Korean rulers are trying to play host to the festival, elbowing away the real host, now when all is said and done. This is an overbearing, shameful behavior.

In the final analysis, their talk about "grand reunification march" and the like is intended to put a spoke in the wheel of the PNR and grand reunification festival of students, and it is a despicable scheme to set up a debating club of their "government"-subsidized anti-communist organizations and anti-communist, anti-reunification elements under the cloak of "grand reunification march."

This is a self-opinionated, criminal act contradictory to national reconciliation.

The South Korean rulers contended that the South side did not participate in any meeting of Pomminnyon, saying the two delegates sent to Berlin by Chondaehyop recently are making "a knapsack travel."

The world people know only too well that it is the South Korean rulers who barred South side's delegates from participating in the Pomminnyon meeting. Yet, the rulers are now using it to deny the representative authority of Pomminnyon. This is a brazen-faced act reminding one of a thief crying "stop thief!"

The preparatory committee for the formation of the South side's Headquarters of Pomminnyon welcomed and supported all the points agreed upon, directly initiated and is pushing ahead with preparations for the second PNR in Seoul, although it had been barred from participating in the meeting.

It is an insult and challenge to Chondaehyop and the pro-reunification patriotic forces of South Korea that the South Korean rulers described the deed of the two Chondaehyop delegates as a "knapsack travel."

It is already nobody's secret that the South Korean rulers came up with a "proposal for grand inter-Korean exchange" last year, blocking the South side's delegates from participating in the August 15 PNR at Panmunjom.

The "grand reunification march" they proposed this year is also intended to lay hurdles in the way of the civilian-level reunification festival now in the making: Nothing has changed in their intention except a change of signs.

SKNDF News Conference on Nuclear Issues

SK2507124391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1025 GMT 25 Jul 91

[News Conference of Hanminjon to domestic and foreign reporters at its Pyongyang mission on 23 July]

[Text] Pyongyang July 25 (KCNA)—Cho Il-min, chief of the Pyongyang mission of the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon), gave a news briefing to home and foreign reporters at his mission on July 23 upon the publication of a white paper of the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula by the C.C. [Central Committee], Hanminjon.

The white paper was distributed to the reporters.

Cho Il-min said that the C.C., Hanminjon made public the white paper reflecting the desire of the people for the removal of the danger of a nuclear war prevailing on the Korean peninsula and conversion of the peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone.

Showing pictures and charts as evidences, he exposed the crimes of the U.S. imperialists in turning South Korea into a nuclear magazine and a test ground of the nuclear war.

It was officially recognized that the U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea at present total 1,720, not 1,000 pieces or more he declared.

He charged that the United States is getting more frantic in nuclear war exercises to provoke a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula at any cost and stepping up war preparations against the North after working out even a criminal 120-day war plan.

Cho Il-min exposed the criminal purpose of the "nuclear inspection" of the northern half of Korea demanded by the United States. He said:

U.S. clamorous demand for "nuclear inspection" is a sort of psychological warfare against the North. It is, in essence, little short of the flare bomb of an aggressive military operation.

The allegation about the North's "development of nuclear weapons" is a fiction. It is an old game of the United States to invent a fiction and start a war of aggression with it as a pretext.

Warning that the U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea menace peace in Asia and the rest of the world, he called upon the governments, political parties, democratic oranizations and peaceloving people of all countries to join in the campaign to drive the U.S. troops out of South Korea and convert the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone and actively support and encourage the anti-U.S., anti-nuke movement of Hanminjon and the people of the South.

He answered questions put by reporters.

'Team Spirit' Said 'Dark Shadow' on Dialogue

SK2407045491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0412 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 24 (KCNA)—The No Tae-u ruling group announced at a press conference July 22 that it would stage "Team Spirit" joint military maneuvers next year with the mobilization of some 100,000 troops, a radio report from Seoul said.

The chairman of the joint chiefs of staff of the puppet army told newsmen that "equipment of most advanced science" mobilized in the Gulf war would be involved in the joint military maneuvers next year.

This announcement coinciding with the approach of inter-Korean high-level talks to be resumed in August thanks to our positive measure causes great resentment among the fellow countrymen who earnestly wish national reconciliation and unity, peace and peaceful reunification.

This is an anti-national act throwing a dark shadow over the North-South dialogue. It clearly shows once again that the South Korean puppets seek a war against the North and a permanent split, not peace and reunification.

U.S., South Plans for 'Team Spirit' Viewed

SK2507060791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459 GMT 25 Jul 91

["Dangerous Scheme of Nuclear Warmongers"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang July 25 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comments on the plan of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets to stage "Team Spirit" joint military exercises next year, too.

The news analyst says:

The annual "Team Spirit" joint manoeuvres in South Korea are an aggressive preliminary war to invade the northern half of Korea and a very dangerous test nuclear war to plunge our nation into a nuclear holocaust. Each time the war game was staged, the situation on the Korean peninsula raced to the brink of war, suspending the North-South dialogues all at once.

The plan of the U.S. imperialists and the puppets is a deliberate move to put a brake on North-South dialogue expected soon and this reveals that they have no intention at all to resolve the Korean question by means of dialogue and negotiation, by a peaceful means.

It is ridiculous of the U.S. imperialists and the puppets to talk about the "reduction in scale", contending that the "Team Spirit" manoeuvres will pose no threat to anyone. This is a trick to cover up the aggressive and offensive nature of the war game.

The plan of the U.S. imperialists and the puppets to stage the mobile field training and commanding exercise in parallel and hurl the most advanced equipment used in the Persian Gulf war into the "Team Spirit" joint military manoeuvres next year suggests that the war games will be a very dangerous nuclear war rehearsal.

Facts show that the U.S. imperialist aggressors who have become all the more arrogant after the Persian Gulf war scheme to unleash a nuclear war in Korea together with the puppets.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets will have to bear full responsibility for the consequences of the war game.

U.S. Relocation of Combined Command Viewed

SK2307064491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0513 GMT 23 Jul 91

["U.S. Troops Must Go Home"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang Jul 23 (KCNA) - The command of U.S. Forces present in South Korea and the puppet Defene Ministry recently agreed to "transfer" the U.S.-South Korea "Combined Forces Command," the Eighth Army Command and other U.S. military bases from Yongsan in Seoul to Osan and Pyongtaek by 1997.

The U.S. imperialist aggressors' announcement that their "transfer," not withdrawal, will be carried out over a period of seven years reveals with added clarity their criminal scheme to keep their forces and nuclear weapons in South Korea for an indefinite period, misleading public opinion, says NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today. The news analyst says: The United States is resorting to a petty trick to lull the South Korean people's anti-American sentiments and maintain its colonial military fascist rule by tranferring from Seoul to local areas its military bases includig the Eighth Army Command which have become the main targets of attack by the South Korea people.

It is, however, a foolish dream.

What the South Korea people demand is to withdraw the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea.

As long as the U.S. forces intend to remain in South Korea in disregard of this demand of the people, nowhere can they find a sanctuary.

The U.S. imperialists had better go home across the ocean at an early date, clearly mindful that there is no room for the aggressor troops in South Korea.

24 Jul Air Exercises 'Against North' Reported

SK2607061891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0500 GMT 26 Jul 91

["War Exercises Against North"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang July 26 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Air Force command and Navy command on July 24 staged a joint air-strike exercise against the northern half of Korea, according to military sources.

The exercise was aimed at a forestalling strike at major targets in the northern half of Korea by formations of nuclear-capable F-16 fighter-bombers, assault planes, pursuit-assault planes and observation planes based in Japan proper and the Pacific in cooperation with formations of fighter-bombers, assault planes and observation planes belonging to the U.S. Air Force in South Korea and the puppet air force.

More than 100 warplanes were mobilized in the provocative war exercise staged for long hours several times in the skies above Sosan and Anmyondo, South Chungchong Province, and Uisong and Kunwi, North Kyongsang Province.

A night flight exercise aimed at infiltration into the depth of our side was staged in the skies above Pochon and Chunchon on July 23.

Meanwhile, the South Korean puppets incessantly perpetrated military provocations under our eyes.

Armed bandits got on our nerves by firing 105 mm guns and 12.7 mm large-calibre machine guns in the area of Paju County, Kyonggi Province, on July 21 and 24.

Daily Views U.S. Role in 'International Order'

SK2407104391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 24 Jul 91

["NODONG SINMUN Flails U.S. Imperialists' Scheme To Dominate World"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang July 24 (KCNA)—U.S. President Bush recently blared that "world peace" and "international order" would be defended by the big strength and leading role of the United States.

High-placed U.S. authorities including the state secretary never let a chance pass by without claiming that only the United States has the powers and strength to dictate the world.

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today brands this as an expression of dominationist ambition.

The news analyst says:

As history shows, international problems are now solved by the efforts of the world people, the masters of the present times and the driving force of historical development, not by the United States, and it is needless to say that it will be so in the future. On the contrary, the privileged position of the United States is declining day by day.

In spite of this, the United States, styling itself "the leader of the world" refuses to discard brigandish nature and old mode of thinking, trying to force its will upon the international community and have things its way.

The doctrine of strength still underlies the aggressive policy of the U.S. imperialists.

In a nutshell, the U.S. imperialists are trying to lord it over as a "monarch" of the world and commit all manner of arbitrariness, wielding the club.

To this end, they are expanding armament and building up nuclear forces, have built many aggression bases and deployed huge armed forces including nuclear weapons across the world under the name of "peace" and "security", and engaged themselves in military intervention and blackmail and war provocations. Such acts are being further intensified on the Korean peninsula. They have deployed more than 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons in South Korea and frequently stage nuclear war exercises there.

These acts of the U.S. imperialists expose peace in Asia and the rest of the world to a grave threat.

The U.S. imperialists' design of world supremacy is an anachronistic foolish dream.

The world people who advocate independence are heightening vigilance against their maneouvres.

The United States must discard its anachronistic old mode of thinking.

U.S. Tries 'To Threaten' Asia-Pacific Region

SK2507101991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1000 GMT 25 Jul 91

["U.S. Imperialists' Moves To Establish Domination Over Asia-Pacific Region With Nuclear Weapons"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang July 25 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today denounces the U.S. imperialists for persistently trying to secure their domination over the Asia-Pacific region.

The article says:

Blaring that "The Future of the United States Rests on Asia" and "the 21st century will be a century of the Pacific", the U.S. authorities are openly pursuing their ambition for domination over this region and stepping up aggressive and belligerent moves there. The main purpose sought by the U.S. imperialists in the Asia-Pacific region is to establish domination and control over the region.

They are trying to keep a tighter hold on the Asia-Pacific region which has rich material and human resorces and on which their economy largely depends as a safe raw material supplier, a sales market and a region for their capital investment.

They scheme to realize this wild ambition by dint of strength. Hence, they have deployed a large number of nuclear weapons in the Asia-Pacific region, threatening and blackmailing the countries in this region.

Especially, they take South Korea as a stronghold for executing their Asia-Pacific strategy. 1,720 nuclear weapons of various types have been deployed in South Korea.

South Korea thus turned into a nuclear base, the U.S. imperialists are ceaselessly staging nuclear war exercises there. The "Team Spirit" war game staged by them annually is a test nuclear war.

If a war breaks out in Korea, with South Korea packed with nuclear weapons, it will turn into a nuclear war and spread to wider areas.

The U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea are intended to threaten and contain any country in case an event that goes against the grain with the "interests" of the United States occurs in Asia.

Campaign in U.S. Demands 'Korea Policy' Change

SK2607063491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 26 (KCNA)—A brisk signature campaign demanding the rectification of the Korea policy of the United States is being held in the United States on the occasion of the month of anti-U.S. joint struggle.

The resolution demanding a change in the U.S. Korea policy jointly adopted by the U.S. Committee for New Korea Policy and other organisations for support to Korea's reunification in the United States was signed by 89 organisations.

The resolution demands that the United States stop provocative war exercises in South Korea and its surroundings, replace the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement, pull all the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons out of South Korea and support the peaceful reunification of Korea.

Military Attaches Visit War Museum in Sinchon

SK2507060491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0423 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 25 (KCNA)—The members of the military attaches' corps in Korea visited the Sinchon Museum in South Hwanghae Province on July 24 on the occasion of the month of anti-U.S. Joint Struggle (June 25-July 27).

Exhibited in the museum are materials and evidences of the brutalities committed by the U.S. imperialist aggression army soldiers during their temporary occupation of Sinchon in the last Korean war in shooting, burning and burying alive 35,000 guiltless people or one fourth of the county's population.

On behalf of the military attaches' corps, Pavel Doroshenko, military attache of the Soviet Embassy, wrote on the visitors' book: Peace overtures of the DPRK must be realised lest war should recur on the Korean peninsula. We wish the Korean people and the People's Army greater success in economic construction, defence construction and the work for national reunification.

Group of 77 Asian States To Meet in Pyongyang

SK2407045291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0423 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 24 (KCNA)—The meeting of the group of the Asian countries of the Group of 77 held in Geneva on July 18 decided with unanimous approval to hold the seventh Asian ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 in Pyongyang from September 7 to 12.

Technical matters related to the seventh ministerial meeting were discussed and decided upon at the Geneva meeting.

The seventh ministerial meeting will be held to define a joint stand of the developing countries in Asia toward the ministerial conference of the Group of 77 which will be held before the eighth congress of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development slated early next year.

It will be attended by high-level delegations of some 40 Asian countries led by ministers of economic affairs and delegations of about 20 international and regional organisations.

The seventh ministerial meeting will mark a significant occasion in promoting the friendly and cooperative relations among the developing countries, especially Asian countries.

Friendship Delegation Returns Home From PRC

SK2507074091 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 20 Jul 91

[Text] A delegation of the Korea-China Friendship Association led by Yi Cha-pang, chairman of its association and chairman of the State Science and Technology Committee, who visited the PRC, arrived today in Pyongyang by plane.

The delegation was met by Pak Tong-chun, vice chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, and (Zhang Chongche), PRC interim charge d'affaires to our country, at the airport.

Soviet Delegation Tours Lock Gate, Pyongyang

SK2407070591 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 18 Jul 91

[Text] A. Mokanu, vice president of the Soviet of the Union of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and his companion, currently on a visit to our country, visited Pyongyang City, several rural places, and Sohae Lock Gate on 17 July.

While listening to the explanation that our people built a world-class lock gate on the 8-km bed within a short period by highly displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance, the guests climbed an observation platform and saw the view of the lock gate and the great artificial reservoir.

After visiting Sohae Lock Gate, the vice president wrote the following words as a record of his impressions: Under the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the Korean people have brilliantly built a great monumental structure. We are really deeply impressed by Sohae Lock Gate, which was built because of his lofty intention. We wish the friendly Korean people more success in the future work.

They also visited the Tower of the Chuche Idea, the Grand People's Study Hall, Pyongyang subway, and the Korean-Soviet Friendship Kochang cooperative.

Korean Soviets Arrive in Pyongyang 25 Jul

SK2507124891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1121 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 25 (KCNA)—Home-visiting groups of Korean residents in the Soviet Union respectively led by Pak Su-tong and Kang Pyotr and a visiting group of the Korean students organization in the Soviet Union led by Kim Leonid arrived here today.

Kim Il-song Receives Veterans in USSR Group

SK2607105591 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1046 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 26 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received a delegation of Korean veterans in the Soviet Union led by chairman of the Association of Korean Veterans in the Soviet Union Hwang Song-pok on a visit to the homeland.

Yun Ki-pok and officials concerned were present on hand.

On the occasion members of the delegation presented a basket of flowers to President Kim Il-song and wished him good health and long life.

President Kim Il-song conversed with them in a cordial atmosphere overflowing with compatriotic feelings.

He was presented with a gift by them.

He arranged a luncheon for them.

Chongnyon Joint Venture Company Commissioned

SK2307055891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0458 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 23 (KCNA)—The Kumbyol joint venture company to be run by the Pyongyang metal building materials factory and the Osaka federation of traders and industrialists under the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) was commissioned.

The company with a building area of 800 square metres is furnished with uptodate equipment and all the production processes are streamlined. It will turn out various metal building materials.

The company will help toward betterment of the citizens' life and actively contribute to the industrial development of the country.

The company was commissioned with a due ceremony on July 22.

Koreans in Japan Urge South Regarding Proposal

SK2607063691 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0442 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Tokyo July 24 (KNS-KCNA)—Kim Chong-su, chairman of the Association of Koreans in Japan for Peaceful Reunification, in a statement July 22 strongly urged the South Korean authorities to discard the infeasible dream of "unification through absorption", immediately respond to the proposal for the convocation of a political consultative conference for national reunification, release those related to Pomminnyon [Pan-National Federation for Reunification] and reunification messengers without delay and ensure the successful holding of the second pan-national rally and the grand reunification festival of students.

If the South Korean authorities truly want reunification, there will be no reason for them to refuse to accept or difficulty in accepting the North side's proposal intended to remove misunderstanding and distrust between the North and the South, promote national reconciliation and unity and accelerate reunification, he noted, and continued:

If the representatives of political parties and organisations of the North and the South sit together and sincerely discuss matters from a firm stand for reunification, they will be able to find a good way of reunification reflecting the desire of the entire nation for reunification and bring to our nation a bright prospect and hope of reunification.

We will do our best to strengthen national unity of the Koreans in the North, the South and overseas and realise the political consultative conference for national reunification.

Reportage on Japanese Delegates' Visit Continues

Kim Yong-sun Meets Delegates

SK2407042891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0415 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 24 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], July 23 met Japanese Dietmen from different political parties on a visit to Korea.

Secretary Kim Yong-sun respectively met Dietmen from the Liberal-Democratic Party including member of the House of Representatives Fumio Abe, Dietmen from the Social-Democratic Party including member of the House of Representatives Yuzuru Shimazaki, member of the House of Councillors from the Social Democratic Federation Hideo Den, Dietmen from the Komei Party including member of the House of Councillors Yukichi Haryu, and Democratic Socialist member of the House of Representatives Atsushi Kanda.

They talked about the question of further developing the friendly relations between the two peoples of Korea and

Japan and the relations between the Workers' Party of Korea and the Japanese political parties whose Dietmen have come to Korea this time.

Kim Il-song Receives Delegation

SK2407105991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1039 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 24 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received the national delegation of the Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship headed by Hajime Ishii, chairman of the league, on a visit to Korea.

Present on the occasion were top advisor to the Korea-Japan Friendship Association Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], advisor to the association Chong Chun-ki, chairman of the Korean Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, chairman of the association Kim Yang-gon, vice-director of a department of the C.C., WPK, and vice-chairman of the association Yi Chol-sin, vice-chairman of the Korean society for cultural relations with foreign countries.

President Kim Il-song had a conversation with the guests in a friendly atmosphere.

The guests presented a gift to President Kim Il-song.

He gave a luncheon for them.

Kim Il-song Views Performance

SK2407105291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1034 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 24 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song saw a music and dance performance of artistes today together with the visiting national delegation of the Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship headed by chairman of the league Hajime Ishii.

Seeing the performance were top advisor to the Korea-Japan Friendship Association Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], advisor Chong Chun-ki, chairman of the Korean Society for Cultural Relations with foreign countries, chairman of the association Kim Yang-kon, vice-director of a department of the WPK Central Committee, vice-chairman Yi Chol-sin, vice-chairman of the Korean society for cultural relations with foreign countries, other officials concerned and working people.

When President Kim Il-song appeared in the box with the head and leading members of the Japanese Dietmen's delegation, the audience warmly welcomed them with an enthusiastic applause and cheers.

Colorful numbers were put on the stage of the performance which began with a chorus "we will follow Marshal Kim Il-song forever".

The performance was acclaimed by the audience.

President Kim Il-song congratulated the artistes on their successful performance.

The delegation presented a basket of flowers to them in congratulation of their success in the performance.

Gift Presented for Kim Chong-il

SK2407110391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1042 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 24 (KCNA)—A gift was presented to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il by the national delegation of the Dietmen's league for the promotion of Japan-Korea friendship on a visit to Korea.

It was handed today to Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the central committee of the Workers' Party of Korea by head of the delegation Hajime Ishii, chairman of the league.

Delegates Fete Hosts in Pyongyang

SK2507052291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 25 (KCNA)—The national delegation of the Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship gave a party at the People's Palace of Culture on July 24 on the conclusion of its visit to the DPRK.

Invited to the party were top adviser to the Korea-Japan Friendship Association Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK]; advisers to the association Chong Chun-ki, chairman of the Korean Society for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, and Choe Mun-son, chief secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Committee of the WPK and chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee; chairman of the association Kim Yang-kon, vice-director of a department of the C.C., the WPK; vice-chairmen of the association and other officials concerned.

The members of the delegation led by Hajime Ishii, chairman of the Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship, were present at the party.

Hajime Ishii and Kim Yang-kon spoke at the party.

Delegation Issues 'Appeal'

SK2507153991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1520 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 25 (KCNA)—The national delegation of the Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship issued an appeal here today.

The appeal says:

The delegation expresses respect and deep thanks to President Kim Il-song and Secretary Kim Chong-il for their warm favours shown for it during its stay.

The Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea friendship has since its formation dispatched delegations to Korea on several occasions and contributed to deepening mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries.

The joint declaration of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Liberal Democratic Party and the Social-Democratic Party of Japan carries the resolution of the three parties to strive to normalise the relations between Japan and Korea and establish diplomatic relations at an early date on the basis of Japan's repentance of and apology for its past colonial rule. The Japanese and DPRK Governments should pool their efforts with sincerity and realise the normalisation of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations as soon as possible in the spirit of the joint declaration of the three parties.

The delegation is pleased that intergovernmental talks for the normalisation of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations will be resumed.

The delegation is convinced that success in the intergovernmental talks will no doubt contribute to the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea, the detente on the Korean peninsula and, furthermore, to peace and security in the rest of Asia.

All the members of the delegation heartily deem it an honour to have been received by President Kim Il-song.

The talks, subcommittee meetings and conversations held during its stay were all successful.

Through all these activities, the members of the delegation contributed again to deepening Japan-Korea friendship.

The dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship is determined to organise leagues of assemblymen in all local areas and cities of Japan and make more positive efforts for friendship between Japan and Korea, with the current visit to Korea as an occasion.

Japanese Dietmen Depart 25 Jul

SK2607052391 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0800 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] The national delegation of the Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship headed by Hajime Ishii, Dietman of the House of Representatives of Japan from the Liberal Democratic Party and chairman of the League, left Pyongyang by plane this afternoon.

Numerous working people in the city of Pyongyang were present at the airport with bouquets to see off the Japanese guests. Respectfully placed in the center of the crowd was a portrait of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song. Placed there were the slogans, "Long live the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song" and "Long live the glorious Workers Party of Korea." Also, placed there were the slogans, "We warmly see off the national delegation of the Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship" and "Long live friendship and goodwill between the peoples of the two countries of Korea and Japan."

When the guests arrived in the airport, the crowd warmly saw them off by waving bouquets. Members of the Korean Children's Union presented bouquets to leading members of the delegation.

Deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] Kim Yang-kon, chairman of the Korea-Japan Friendship Association; SPA Deputies Chong Sin-hyok, Kim Yong-ho, and Kim Kuk-hun, vice chairmen of the Association; Yi Chol-sin, vice chairman of the Association; and SPA deputy Nam Sun-hui saw off the delegation at the airport. Japanese reporters from various press organizations left together with the delegation.

Paper Criticizes Japan's 'False Propaganda'

SK2607060891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0531 GMT 26 Jul 91

["NODONG SINMUN on False Propaganda by Japanese Publications"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang July 26 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today lashes out at the recent false propaganda of some Japanese publications regarding the proposed fourth talks for the normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations.

A commentary of the daily entitled "Truth Cannot Be Concealed With False Propaganda" says:

Some Japanese publications speculate that resumption of the fourth talks expected late August in Beijing is a result of the low-key attitude we adopted toward Japan with a view to creating an international environment for our U.N. membership after applying for it and also of the concession we made in regard to the question of a Japanese woman.

This is, indeed, a queer, preposterous speculation.

Of course, this may be an individual argument of reporters based on surmises and guesses, or something motivated by a sinister aim.

Hence, we cannot but dig up the truth behind false reports of Japanese media.

The Japanese side is to blame for the unsuccessful third round of talks in Beijing in May last which ended without so much as agreeing on the date of the fourth round, failing to meet the expectations of the Korean and Japanese peoples.

At the third round the Japanese side made free with words grating upon the ears of the other side and brought up even issues which had nothing to do with the basic agenda and which even could be regarded as an insult, thus leading the talks to suspension.

After the third round of talks quite a few doubts have been raised and much debate made not only in Japan but on the international scene as to whether Japan is engaged in independent diplomacy or not. Not a few criticisms have been made in Japan, too, against the negotiators, and voices demanding that Japan take a proper stance and attitude toward the Japan-DPRK talks rang out incessantly from the Japanese political and social circles, assemblies and organizations in different places.

Driven to a corner with no subterfuge to make as their unjustifiable stand had been revealed more glaringly with the passage of time, the Japanese Foreign Ministry sent a delegation to Pyongyang under the name of an academic exchange and working officials of the Foreign Ministry came to us of their own accord with a government-endorsed "compromise proposal."

It is not hard to gather that at the contact with our side they withdrew their unjustifiable demand and apologized as demanded by our side at the third round.

The Japanese side had reportedly busied itself publishing a report about the resumption of talks before the visit to our country by the large-scale national delegation of the Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship, fearing that public voices of accusation against its unjustifiable behavior would grow louder.

The resumption of the fourth round of talks, to all intents and purposes, can be said to have been made possible after our side accepted an apology and concessions by the Japanese side and we manifested our principled demand and stand toward them.

This stark reality cannot be concealed with whatever false propaganda.

It is an unsavory act to provoke and get on the nerve of their dialogue partner with the fourth round just around the corner.

Japanese publications would be well advised to ponder over it.

Sihanouk's Election as SNC Chairman Praised

SK2407053491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0455 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 24 (KCNA)—It is a dramatic event of historical significance on the way of political settlement of the Cambodian problem that at the working-level meeting of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia (SNC) held in Beijing some time ago, all the members of the SNC and factions elected Samdech Norodom Sihanouk chairman of the SNC. Thus, a new morning has broken on the land of Cambodia which has undergone sufferings and misfortunes for many years due to dispute.

The Korean people warmly support the success signifying a big step forward in solving the Cambodian problem.

NODONG SINMUN today says this in a commentary titled "another positive move".

The news analyst says:

The radical turn in the political settlement of the Cambodian problem is a result of the efforts made by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk for a long period. It is also a fruition of reconciliation and cooperation promoted by factions in Cambodia on the basis of common purpose and aspirations.

The Cambodian people are facing heavy tasks to consolidate the successes achieved, completely solve the outstanding problems and build a new Cambodia, independent, neutral and non-aligned.

The Korean people firmly believe that the factions in Cambodia will vigorously advance to build a new Cambodia, independent, neutral and non-aligned, in concerted efforts.

They have always stood and will firmly stand, in the future, too, on the side of the Cambodian people.

A signed commentary of MINJU CHOSON says:

The Korean people are convinced that the Cambodian people will build a new reunified Cambodia, independent, neutral and non-aligned, by their own efforts, uniting around the Supreme National Council of Cambodia headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

Foreign Press Agencies Run Kim Il-song Speech

SK2607051691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0434 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 26 (KCNA)—The speech of the great leader President Kim Il-song at the banquet he gave in welcome of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, was carried by the Chinese PEOPLE'S DAILY.

It was reported by the Chinese XINHUA, the Soviet TASS and the VIETNAMESE NEWS AGENCY.

Cuban Press Agency Head Views Nuclear Threat

SK2607054591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0434 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 26 (KCNA)—Nuclear threat to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Asia should be removed.

A nuclear inspection should not be made only of the DPRK that has no nuclear weapons but the U.S. nuclear arms in South Korea should be opened to the public and an international inspection should be made in South and North Korea simultaneously.

To do so is fair and aboveboard and reasonable.

Roberto Pavon Tamayo, director general of the national news agency of Cuba, stressed this in an interview with the KCNA correspondent in Cuba on July 23.

He noted:

Of late the United States and the South Korean authorities are raising a hue and cry over the "development of nuclear weapons" and trying to force "nuclear inspection" upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This is unjustifiable, to all intents and purposes.

The reason is that the United States has deployed more than 1,700 pieces of nuclear weapons as well as many military facilities in South Korea posing threat to peace and security in the DPRK and Asia.

The Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the DPRK have constantly demanded the withdrawal of the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea with a view to achieving a durable peace on the Korean peninsula. The United States and the South Korean authorities, however, have refused to accept the just demand and continued nuclear war exercises.

He expressed the firm belief that the Korean people will certainly achieve the independent, peaceful reunification of the country by frustrating all obstructions on the part of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique.

Pyongyang Meeting Marks Cuban Anniversary

SK2607063591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0447 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 26 (kcna)—A meeting was held here on July 25 to mark the 38th anniversary of the July 26 armed uprising of the Cuban people.

Chong Chun-ki, chairman of the Committee for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, addressing the meeting said that the victory of the Cuban revolution completely liberated the Cuban people from colonial exploitation and oppression, ushered in the first socialist state in the Western Hemisphere, sowed the seeds of revolution in the land of Latin America and set the beginning of the collapse of the colonial system of the U.S. imperialists.

All the successes gained in Cuba are a brilliant fruition of the correct leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba headed by Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz and of the creative labor and devoted struggle of the Cuban people rallied around the party, he noted, and continued:

These days the U.S. imperialists are intensifying the anti-Cuban campaign as never before. We extend full support and firm solidarity to the fraternal Cuban people in their just struggle for repulsing the anti-Cuban moves of the U.S. imperialists and defending the gains of socialism and peace and security in Central America.

The friendship between the Korean and the Cuban people is a militant friendship established and consolidated in the common struggle for the same ideal and purpose and a solid and true friendship between the class brothers forged in the struggle for the victory of the cause of socialism and the strengthening and development of the Non-aligned Movement and an unbreakable friendship that will not change though many years pass by .

Our people will in the future, too, make all possible efforts to further strengthen and develop the friendly and cooperative relations with the Cuban people.

Juan Jose Leon Vega, Cuban ambassador to the DPRK, spoke next.

He pointed out:

The Korean people inflicted a heavy defeat on the U.S. imperialists in the three year-long grim war and after the war built the capital city of Pyongyang on the heap of ashes. This could be achieved only in socialist Korea under the leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

The Cuban and the Korean people face an honorable task to defend socialism. The two countries will discharge the historical mission to the last.

In the past days Cuba has always expressed full support to the cause of independent and peaceful reunification of Korea and Cuba always extends firm support to all the proposals put forward by the DPRK for the reunification of the country and the struggle of the Korean people to force the U.S. troops out of South Korea.

Cuba supports the wise decision of the DPRK to enter the United Nations and will actively struggle to make the decision realised.

The relationship between the parties and peoples of the two countries is comradely relationship and the close intimacy between Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, the supreme commander, and the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song will make the friendship between the two countries everlasting.

Kang Hui-won, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-premier of the Administration Council, and others were present at the meeting.

Dailies Mark Cuban Armed Uprising Anniversary

SK2607104291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 26 (KCNA)—Papers here today dedicate articles to the 38th anniversary of the armed uprising of the Cuban people.

NODONG SINMUN in a signed article says:

With the attack on the Moncada Barracks, the revolutionary struggle of the Cuban people for the independence of the country and freedom entered into a new phase.

The Cuban revolutionaries had since actively waged an armed struggle and, on January 1, 1959, they overthrew the the pro-American Batista dictatorial government and won a victory of the revolution.

After the victory in the revolution, the Cuban people have convincingly advanced along the road of socialism under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba, demonstrating the dignity and resourcefulness as the people who hold their destinies in their hands and enjoying a worthy life. Today, the Republic of Cuba is standing in the Western hemisphere as a heroic country with the economy based on solid material and technical foundations, a developing culture and powerful defence potentials.

"Let us fight in the spirit of Moncada!", this is an invariable fighting slogan of the Cuban people.

Under the leadership of Comrade Fidel Castro, the valiant and industrious Cuban people have pushed ahead with the socialist construction and made brilliant achievements in all domains of the national economy including industry, agriculture, education and public health, powerfully demonstrating the advantages and vitality of socialism in Latin America.

The Cuban people are consolidating the might and unity of the party in every way, aware that the party's leadership is vital to shaping their destinies and developing the country.

The unity of the Cuban people is the source of the strength which makes it possible to frustrate the blockade policy of the U.S. imperialists and make a long drive following up the victory of the Cuban revolution.

The United States is now engaged in a wholesale offensive against Cuba, asserting that "free elections must be held in Cuba under the international supervision".

The Cuban people, however, are redoubling their efforts in the spirit of Moncada without the slightest vacillation.

They are overcoming hardships and difficulties by their own efforts and reliably defending the bulwark of socialism in the Western hemisphere under the leadership of the party, while smashing the anti-Cuba campaign of the U.S. imperialists at every step, according to the "strategy in the special period of the peaceful period".

No force can bar the triumphant advance of the Cuban people who are united as one.

A signed article of MINJU CHOSON says that the Korean people wish the Cuban people fresh success in their struggle to defend the revolution and build socialism.

Yang Hyong-sop Attends Egyptian Envoy's Party

SK2607070591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 26 (KCNA)—Egyptian Ambassador to Korea Bahgat Ibrahim Disuqi arranged a party at his embassy on July 25 to mark the 39th anniversary of the July 23 revolution of the Egyptian people.

Present on invitation were chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly Yang Hyong-sop and officials concerned.

Speeches were made at the party.

Dailies View History of Relations With Syria

SK2507131291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004 GMT 25 Jul 91

["25th Anniversary of Korea-Syria Diplomatic Relations"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang July 25 (KCNA)—Dailies here today dedicate articles to the 25th anniversary of the opening of diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level between the DPRK and the Syrian Arab Republic.

The establishment of diplomatic relation on July 25, 1966 reflected the common desire and aspiration of the two peoples to advance together along the road of the worthy struggle for the building of a new society, says NODONG SINMUN.

The author of the article continues: The courageous and industrious Syrian Arab People, under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th party headed by President Hafez al-Asad, are now making strenuous efforts to defend the gains of the revolution and build a new society.

They are advancing along the road of building an independent society against imperialism already chosen by themselves while smashing the anti-Syria maneuverings of the imperialists and zionists.

The Government and people of Syria are striving to restore the lost territory and achieve a fair and lasting solution of the Mid-east problem.

The Korean people will as ever extend positive support and encouragement to the just struggle of the Syrian people.

MINJU CHOSON says: We will continue our efforts to further develop and strengthen the friendly and cooperative relations between the two peoples in conformity with the common interests and the cause of peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

Cha Pong-chu Meets Indian Delegation 22 Jul

SK2207103491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1015 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 22 (KCNA)—Vice-president Yi Chong-ok today met and had a friendly talk with the visiting government delegation of the Republic of India led by L.L. Mehrotra, secretary of the Foreign Ministry, at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

Present on the occasion were Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs Cha Pong-chu and Indian Ambassador to Korea Shehkholen Kipgen.

Vice-premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam also met and had a friendly talk with the delegation today.

Views India-Pakistan Issue

BK2307082291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] North Korea is of the view that India and Pakistan should resolve their differences in the spirit of the Simla accord. This opinion was expressed by the North Korean vice foreign minister, Mr. Cha Pong-Chu, during his talks with Mr. L.L. Mehrotra, Secretary, in the External Affairs Ministry in Pyongyang yesterday.

Our Southeast Asia correspondent reports that Mr. Mehrotra also had detailed talks with the vice president, Mr. Yi Chong-ok, and the foreign minister and vice premier, Mr. Kim Yong-nam. Mr. Mehrotra briefed them on India's efforts to improve relations with the neighbors, including China.

He also met Prince Sihanouk Chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia and Prime Minister Hun Sen. Prince Sihanouk said that India has a key role to play in resolving the Cambodian problem.

Kim Yong-nam Meets Visiting Pakistani Official

SK2507061391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0454 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 25 (KCNA)—Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam Wednesday met and had a friendly talk with Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, information and broadcasting adviser to the Pakistani prime minister, and his party.

International Official Meets Kim Chae-pong

SK2407051991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0444 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 24 (KCNA)—Willy Burgeon, member of the Bureau of the Belgian Socialist Party and chairman of the Vallon District Council and honorary chairman of the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea, and his party arrived here on July 23.

The guests were met at the airport by Kim Chae-pong, vice-director of a department of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea.

Meets With Kim Yong-sun

SK2607112691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1048 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 26 (KCNA)—Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, today met and had a friendly talk with Willy Burgeon, member of the Bureau of the Belgian Socialist Party, chairman of the Vallon District Council and honorary chairman of the International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea (CILRECO).

So Yun-sok Attends Water Facility's Ceremony

*SK2407034991 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting
Network in Korean 2100 GMT 8 Jul 91*

[Excerpts] A permanent water recycling center, which will be able to be used for hundreds of years, is now being constructed at the Pukchang thermal power station complex—our country's powerful power base.

The permanent water recycling center is a major task to transform nature by constructing a draining waterway tunnel hundreds of meters long, main drains, two large dams, and purifying structures over a hundred meters high.

If the permanent water recycling center is completed, the recycling issue in the Pukchang thermal power station complex will be completely settled. [passage omitted]

An inaugural ceremony of the waterway was held on site yesterday. The ceremony was attended by Comrade So Yun-sok, member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea and responsible secretary of the South Pyongan Provincial Party Committee and chairman of the South Pyongan Provincial People's Committee, and other functionaries concerned with the builders of the No. 11 thermal power station, shock brigade members of the Administration Council, and volunteers. Comrade So Yun-sok made a report at the inaugural ceremony of the waterway. [passage omitted]

Chang Chol Attends Report Meeting at University

SK2307101091 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1100 GMT 8 Jul 91

[Excerpt] A report meeting to mark the 20th anniversary of dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's on-the-spot guidance to Pyongyang University of Dramaturgy and Cinematics was held on the spot on the afternoon of 8 July.

The meeting was attended by Comrade Chang Chol, vice premier of the Administration Council and minister of culture and art, and other functionaries concerned with teachers and students of Pyongyang University of Dramaturgy and Cinematics, functionaries of cultural and artistic fields, and writers and artists. [passage omitted]

Choe Tae-pok Attends Report Meeting

SK2307095991 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0900 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Excerpts] A report meeting to mark the 45th anniversary of the founding of a hydro-meteorological bureau was held in the Central Workers' Hall on the morning of 9 July. [passage omitted]

The meeting was attended by Comrade Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrade Chang Chol, vice premier of the Administration Council; and other functionaries concerned with the employees of the hydro-meteorological bureau. With the Song of General Kim Il-song playing, the report meeting began. Yi Kon-il, director of the hydro-meteorological bureau, made a commemorative report. [passage omitted]

Yi Chong-ok Attends Academic Degree Meeting

SK2307100191 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0700 GMT 9 Jul 91

[Excerpts] A meeting to confer a state academic degree on functionaries in scientific and educational fields was held on the spot on the morning of 9 July. [passage omitted]

The meeting was attended by Comrade Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice president and chairman of the committee of state academic degree, and functionaries concerned with the people who will get the state academic degree. [passage omitted]

Chang Chol Attends Meeting Marking Anniversary

SK2307102591 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 16 Jul 91

[Excerpts] A report meeting to mark 20th anniversary of founding the Sea of Blood Opera Troupe was held at Pyongyang Grand Theater on the afternoon of 16 July. [passage omitted]

The meeting was attended by Comrade Chang Chol, vice premier of the Administration Council and minister of culture and art; Paek In-chun, chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of the Unions of Literature and Arts of Korea; Kim Chong-ho, vice minister of the ministry of culture and art; and other functionaries concerned with writers and artists of the Sea of Blood Opera Troupe and artists in Pyongyang City. As the Song of General Kim Il-song played, the report meeting began. Comrade Chang Chol delivered a congratulatory message sent by the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea to writers and artists of the Sea of Blood Opera Troupe. [passage omitted]

National Science, Technology Festival Opens

SK2407051391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0426 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 24 (KCNA)—The Sixth National Festival of Science and Technology opened in Pyongyang on July 23.

The opening ceremony was attended by about 3,000 scientists, technicians, working people, university students and three-revolution team members.

At the festival, scientific and technological achievements which have been highly estimated at festivals of science and technology held at industrial establishments and provinces will be published.

The annual national festival of science and technology is of great importance in consolidating the achievements made by the scientists, technicians and working people in scientific researches and the mass technical innovation movement, encouraging them to attain the high objectives of the technical revolution, promoting the chuche orientation, modernisation and scientisation of the national economy and lifting the science and technology of the country to a new stage.

Over the past five years since the first festival, nearly 400,000 technical innovation proposals have been introduced in production and construction and the number of inventions has increased more than five times as against the preceding five years. Over the last one year, more than 104,500 technical innovation proposals have been introduced in production.

After the opening ceremony, the festival began at associations and societies of different domains.

The festival continues.

Kim Il-song's Activities in Jilin Lauded

SK2607091891 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0600 GMT 12 Jul 91

[Memoirs by (Hwang Ki-hon) entitled "From the Dawning Period of the Revolution" from the program "Serial Memoirs—Nation's Boundless Honor"—read by announcer]

[Text] I came to the embrace of the benevolent fatherland almost (?10) years ago. The longer I am happily living in the fatherland, the more grateful I feel for the respected and beloved leader for having built the most excellent man-centered socialist system in this land in which all the people are leading independent, creative lives to their hearts' content. I recall those worthwhile days in Jilin approximately 60 years ago when I, for the first time, upheld him as a great guiding star who brightens Korea's future road. People tend to forget past events when they grow old. However, even though I am close to 80 today, I still remember those emotional days when our people were upholding the respected and beloved leader during the dawning period of the Korean revolution for the first time.

The respected and beloved leader formed the Down-With-Imperialism Union [DIU] in Huadian, thus starting the Korean revolution. He came to Jilin, where we were living, at the close of 1927, when it was snowing very hard. I was 13 at that time. Many Korean people were living in Jilin there. My father's relatives were always visiting my house located in (Umahang), Jilin, and discussed the situation. Some people said that our country, a small and weak country, must get assistance from powerful countries to win independence, and other people asked how our country could win independence from the very atrocious Japanese imperialists. Whenever I heard old men make pessimistic remarks, I, though young, felt that Korea's independence was a thing of the very distant future.

The great leader, who was carrying out revolutionary activities while attending the Yuwen Middle School, eradicated this tendency in Jilin and gave the bright rays of national rebirth to our countrymen there. He carried out activities without sleeping or resting for a few months after he came to Jilin. In this way, he rallied the boys and girls behind the Association of Korean Children in Jilin and the Korean youth and students of various strata behind the Yugil Association of [Korean] Students and the Anti-Imperialist Youth League. He indoctrinated them with the working class' revolutionary ideas and anti-Japanese and patriotic ideas through lecture meetings, oratorical contests, book discussion meetings, and various other forms and ways, and raised them as a new generation of revolutionaries in the true Korea.

Because I was young, I could not realize it all. When I recall those days, I realized that the saying that a great man's dignity is shown in every word he says is correct. The great leader told our members of the Association of Children in Jilin many old stories, including "A Story of Three Brothers," "Myongui's Mistake," "Drops of Water That Tore Down Rocks," "Awangnyo, Who Discovered Fire," and "The Boy Who Came on a Tiger's Back." Those stories were filled with profound principles.

Even though the respected and beloved leader was young, in his teens, he fully displayed his outstanding leadership skills in reconciling not only children and students but also nationalists, who were embroiled in disputes even in a foreign land, among themselves and leading them to join hands under the anti-Japanese patriotic banner.

I still remember an athletic meeting that the great leader organized on the first Sunday of May 1927 to unite the children and masses from all walks of life in Jilin. That day, wave after wave of numerous people began to come to a playing field on the foot of Mt. (Puk) from early in the morning. Almost all of the Korean people not only from Jilin City but also from rural areas in its suburbs gathered. The athletic meeting started with the opening address by the great leader. Running and obstacle races, ball games, Ssirum [Korean wresting] matches, and various other events took place. I still remember a game, among them: In this game, children's union members were supposed to run to the final line with their parents, independence movement activists, and any other people whose names were written on pieces of paper that they picked up beforehand. When they watched boys and girls running while leading independence movement activists and parents by the hand, spectators burst into fits of laughter and sighs of relief. The independence movement activists who had distanced themselves from these events while carrying out activities in such organizations as Chonguibu, Chamuibu, and Sinminbu seated themselves at the rostrum and talked among themselves while smiling. They also cheered the runners enthusiastically. Almost all the Korean people living in Jilin joyfully laughed for the first time like members of a single family. That day's athletic meeting greatly contributed to promoting harmony and unity among the Korean people in Jilin and was an important opportunity that gave them hope for and confidence in their future.

When the Korean people in Jilin met after the athletic meeting, they said: With the coming of Mr. Kim Song-chu [original name of Kim Il-song], Jilin has changed completely. We are now able to lead worthwhile lives.

In this way, they expressed boundless admiration for the great leader.

The reputation of the great leader, who had been opening new roads to the Korean reunification, spread from Jilin to Manchuria and even the motherland just like morning rays of sun. As a result, hot-blooded progressive young people who had been wandering to find a genuine road to the Korean revolution began to come to Jilin like gathering clouds. Moreover, as a result of the struggle to oppose the construction of the Jilin-Hoeryong Railway Line and the struggle to boycott Japanese goods, the leader's [suryongnimui] high reputation more widely spread, and the people very highly praised him as the guiding star of the revolution.

When I recalled the days when I was participating in the struggles, I am still buoyed with great pride. Based upon the careful plan by the great leader, on the morning of 26 October 1928, the youth and students in Jilin boycotted classes in an organized fashion and staged street demonstrations, thus starting the struggles to oppose the construction of the Jilin-Hoeryong Railway Line, a project that the Japanese imperialists were planning to carry out to prepare for their invasion of Manchuria, and to boycott Japanese goods. Responding to the enthusiastic calls by the great leader, tens of thousands of demonstrators loudly chanted slogans opposing the Japanese imperialist aggressors and took to the streets. Even citizens took to the streets, too. As a result, all the streets of Jilin were filled with wave after wave of angry demonstrators.

The police who were arrogantly wielding guns and bayonets to stop the ranks of demonstrators were wandering from place to place. I was really delighted. I also vividly realized how powerful unity was. I respectfully admired the great leader, who was leading the struggle on the vanguard of the ranks. With Comrade (Han Yong-ae), I scattered leaflets street after street and plastered manifestos on walls and electricity posts. The flames of struggle which the great leader ignited finally spread across Shenyang, Harbin, Changchun, and various other areas in Manchuria and Tianjin in China, thus dealing a serious blow to the Japanese imperialist aggressors. Very much taken aback, the Japanese imperialists could not but stop the construction of the Jilin-Hoeryong Railway Line. The victory from the popular anti-Japanese demonstration struggle greatly excited all the people.

Overwhelmed with deep emotion, my father, who was sick at that time, said: I did not imagine that a happy day like today would come. We have come to uphold a peerless great man upon whom we can entrust Korea's future and our 20 million fellow countrymen's destiny.

This was how all the fellow countrymen felt at that time. Because we had no outstanding leader who could lead our struggle along a correct road, our people could not but waste our hot blood of patriotism on our road to independence. Our people, who had been in such a condition, came to uphold the great leader. This was truly Korea's honor and the nation's great blessing. Whenever I listen to the immortal revolutionary song "Korea's Star," which Comrade Kim Hyok composed during those days of struggle, I recall those touching days when we were singing to the world the happiness of upholding, as the guiding star of the revolution, Comrade Kim Il-song, who, in his teens, was so great to make all of Jilin a place where the violent storms of revolution were blowing. Because we respectfully upheld the respected and beloved leader, our people could celebrate the new days of the fatherland's liberation, and the Korean revolution could vigorously march along the proud single road of victory.

I came to the fatherland after living overseas for a long time. When I again met the respected and beloved leader after decades of years, a long time, I vividly realized boundless pride in and happiness for being a member of a nation that upholds the leader [suryong] as a tender-hearted father. I visited the fatherland right after the historic Sixth Congress of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee. I went to the respected and beloved leader's place when he summoned me. Even though busy handling party and state affairs, he warmly received me and my daughter. Recalling with deep emotion those days when he was carrying out revolutionary activities in Jilin, he talked with us for hours. During a luncheon that he gave for us that day, the father leader, recalling Kim Hyok, Cha Kwang-su, (Han Yong-ae), (Pak So-sin), and other revolutionary fighters of the opening days of the revolutionary activities, called one name after another. He could not start eating and said: If I could have shared a bowl of boiled rice with them after the liberation of the country, I would not be broken-hearted like this.

With deep emotion, he recalled those young communists who died more than half a century ago. Because of this great love and noble sense of obligation, I was moved to tears and said in my heart: Truly, the people call our leader [suryongnim] father and follow him, because he is an unprecedented great man in terms of ideology and leadership and because he has the noblest sense of revolutionary obligation and warmest human love.

After entering the embrace of the fatherland, I had an opportunity to keenly realize how markedly the world's people respect our leader [suryongnim] as a great leader [yongdoja] of the world's revolution and as an outstanding great man. It was when, under the dear comrade leader's care, I, as a representative, attended celebrations on the great leader's 70th birthday. I attended such a large event for the first time in my life. Everything I saw and heard was new. I could not but be surprised and moved. Numerous party and state leaders and renowned political and social leaders from the five continents of the world came to Pyongyang after crossing continents and oceans to congratulate our leader's [suryongnimui] birthday. These celebrations were truly a great festival of mankind. While witnessing the scene in which one head of state after another very respectfully extended best wishes to the great leader at the congratulatory banquet, I could not choke back tears because of my pride and happiness in upholding the leader [suryongnim].

Our nation's history is known to be 5,000 years long. However, was there any such glorious and laudable occasion as this? At the moment of personally witnessing that the respected leader is the great leader not only of our people but also of the world's people, my joy and deep emotion were great and beyond description.

Just as the proverb, seeing is believing, says, I came to realize that the development of everything in the fatherland was beyond my imagination when I returned to the home country after having lived overseas for 10 years.

Seeing great monumental creations, of which we can be proud before the entire world, I cannot restrain admiration for our nation's enormous economic power, for the people's endless might in the fatherland, and, in particular, for the courage, uncommon wisdom, and great leadership of dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who led the people so that they could build such great creations in a short period of time.

The great ray of his guidance illuminated not only the construction field but also all domains, including educational, literary and art, public health, and scientific and technological and the people's daily life.

Thus, when the fatherly leader asked me about my impressions of my visit to the fatherland, I frankly told him that the fact that we can now uphold the dear young Comrade Kim Chong-il as the great inheritor of the chuche revolutionary cause pioneered by the leader is so joyous and reassuring, just as the time when we upheld the great leader for the first time in Jilin more than 50 years ago.

Fully sensing his wise leadership and lofty moral repute after I returned to the fatherland, I came to more firmly believe that upholding the dear comrade leader as the sun of guidance is indeed an everlasting fortune of our people.

When there was no bosom of the nation where we could be embraced in the past, our people left for stormy Beijiandao and Japan by crossing the raging waves of Hyonhae Strait in order to seek ways to live. However, today our people are coming to the bosom of the fatherland from many parts of the world by crossing oceans and continents, proudly shouting, "I am a Korean!"

Being embraced in the bosom of the fatherland in the last phase of my life after returning from a foreign country, I now enjoy a happy life. Seeing today's proud reality in which a basic turn was effected in our people's destiny and in which our fatherland reached a high peak, I am often sunk in contemplation.

In April last year, I attended a gathering in Jilin arranged by overseas compatriots to congratulate the great leader's birthday. Our fellow countrymen, who suffered contemptuous treatment and disdain as ruined people in the past wherever they went, today were living magnificently by cherishing a great pride as overseas compatriots of a very dignified and powerful chuche Korea. Seeing this, I could not repress the deep emotion welling up within me.

Because there is the great leader, our people have the national pride and honor and Korea is shining. Because there is the glorious party which is bringing the leader's lofty intentions into bloom, our chuche fatherland is more prosperous and our future is ever bright, giving boundless joy and pleasure to us.

The respected leader realized the people's new Korea, to which I ardently looked forward during my youth in Jilin, and he realized the most superior chuche socialism. Thus, he gave dignity and pride to our people as heroic people. I firmly resolved to uphold and follow, and to render loyalty to the respected leader and our party forever and generation after generation.

Kim Il-song's Guidance in Korean War Praised

SK2607111591 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1026 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 26 (KCNA)—The guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song was a decisive factor of the victory of the Korean people in the Fatherland Liberation War and a basic source which enabled the Korean People's Army and people to highly display matchless devotion and mass heroism, says NODONG SINMUN today in a signed article entitled "Wise Leadership of the Party and the Leader Was Decisive Factor of Victory in the Fatherland Liberation War" dedicated to the 38th anniversary of the victory of the Korean people in the war.

The paper quotes the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as saying:

"Our people and the soldiers of the People's Army were able to win the Fatherland Liberation War enduring severe trials, because they trusted in and followed the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song alone, rallied as one around him."

The paper says:

The Fatherland Liberation War was a grim decisive war and a most rigorous trial to the Korean people.

In the whole period of the war, the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song victoriously led it at the head of the party, the state and the revolutionary armed forces taking the destinies of the country and the people upon himself and tiding over manifold hardships and difficulties.

In leading the war to victory, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song strengthened the Workers' Party of Korea, enhanced its leading role and powerfully organised the Korean people to a heroic struggle, keeping their ideological consciousness on a steady high.

Even under the conditions of the rigorous war, he convened plenary meetings of the party Central Committee and indicated the correct orientation and ways to improve and strengthen the party building and work in keeping with the wartime circumstances and further strengthen the party organisationally and ideologically.

He directed great efforts to equipping the Army and the people with the chuche-based stand and viewpoint and tempering them in a revolutionary way so that they could devote themselves to the sacred battles to defend every inch of the land from the aggression of the enemy at the cost of blood.

Officers and men of our People's Army and our people educated by the great leader highly displayed their unbounded loyalty to the party and the leader and the noble self-sacrificing spirit of devoting their all to their country and the nation and set a living example of unparalleled bravery and mass heroism with which they fought to the end at the risk of their lives.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song frustrated the U.S. imperialist aggressors' numerical and technical upperhand with the strategies and tactics of chuche.

The strategy and tactics of chuche put forward by Comrade Kim Il-song—immediate and overall counterattack upon the surprise invasion of the enemy, continued strikes on all fronts and the siege and annihilation warfare of the enemy groups, the formation of second front by regular units in the enemy rear, mountain and night warfare, active position defence and assault battle, the snipers' movement, concentric gunfiring in the mountainous areas, ativities of mobile artillery companies, aircraft-hunters movement and the tank-hunters movement—helped defeat the U.S. imperialists who had bravadoed with their numerical and technical superiority and win a decisive victory.

The Korean People's Army and the people will in the future, too, firmly defend the security of the country and the socialist cause by decisively frustrating any move of the enemy, more closely united around the party and the leader, the article stresses.

Construction Development of Tongil Street Viewed

SK2407154691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1526 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 24 (KCNA)—The street which was named Tongil (reunification) reflecting the ardent desire of the nation is taking shape at a fast speed in the district south of the Taedong River in Pyongyang.

The 120 meter wide main thoroughfare stretches four km in this area which had been fields till the beginning of last year, and there have appeared several dozen big blocks of high-rise and super-high-rise apartment houses on its either sides.

The builders, with a goal of completing the construction of houses for 20,000 families by the end of this year, finished the frame assembling and exterior plastering. And they have carried out interior wall plastering at 90 per cent, window frame fixing at over 70 per cent and completed the roofing project in the main.

They have done gravel paving at more than 50 per cent following the earthwork for the main thoroughfare and completed seven underground pass structural projects.

The construction of a large reservoir which will supply drinking water to Tongil Street has entered the final stage and two bridges branching off the Tosong flyover have been completed.

The construction of service networks has progressed fast, with the result that the frame assembling of 15 objects out of the 19, including a 5,000-seat Korean noodle house with a total floor space of nearly 20,000 square metres, has been completed in the main.

Tongil Street is divided into eight residential blocks, each of them being built along peculiar lines as a perfect living unit, furnished with sufficient educational and cultural establishments and service facilities including schools, hospitals, cinema houses and shops.

An area of more than 1.5 million square metres along the bank of the Taedong River will be occupied by Kangan Park, appointed with a wading pool, an outdoor swimming pool, an indoor soccer stadium, a golf course, a jet coaster and other kinds of recreation facilities.

Entering this month, the builders, striving to complete the construction of Tongil Street in a shorter time, have increased the speed of construction, 1.5 times as a whole as compared the like period of the previous month.

Chonsung Revolutionary Site Attractions Detailed

SK2307045691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0410 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 22 (KCNA)—Pyongyang working people, youth and children and people's Army soldiers are visiting the Chonsung revolutionary site on the occasion of the 38th anniversary of the victory of the Korean people in the great Fatherland Liberation War (June 1950-July 1953).

The site is at the foot of Moran Hill.

While leading the Fatherland Liberation War to victory at the site from 1951 till the end of the war, the great leader President Kim Il-song took measures to strengthen the party and people's power and stabilize the people's living and elaborated a grand blueprint for postwar reconstruction.

There is the Chonsung Revolutionary Museum (open since April 1970) with an introductory hall and four display rooms at the site.

On display there are historical materials and mementoes showing that President Kim Il-song wisely led the People's Army and people to win the historical victory in the Fatherland Liberation War.

The site is divided into an outdoor and an underground sectors.

The outdoor site includes an office room of President Kim Il-song, a conference room, the building of the military committee, a dining room.

In the office room President Kim Il-song prepared such important meetings as the fourth plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (November 1951) and authored works.

The conference room tells a story that he examined and ratified the document for the signing of the Armistice Agreement in July 1953 and presided over meetings of the party and state.

He met with directors of factories and enterprises and prospecting workers at the underground office room and conference rooms and indicated the orientation and ways of their future work.

There he presided over meetings of the cabinet and the military committee on more than 100 occasions and convened meetings of activists in different domains of the national economy.

More Revolutionary Relics, Slogans Unearthed

SK2607040391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2221 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang JUly 25 (KCNA)—Many revolutionary slogans, remains and relics of the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle worth being national treasures have been unearthed in recent years in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Far more than ten thousand slogan-bearing trees and more than six thousand revolutionary relics and remains have been discovered in 100 odd cities, counties and districts of the northen half of Korea including Yanggang and Chagang provinces.

In this course, the secret camp of Mt. Paektu, the main secret camp of the secret base of Mt. Paektu area, which was the central leadership base of the Korean revolution founded by the great leader President Kim Il-song during the period of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, and the log cabin of the headquarters, the native home where the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was born and spent his childhood and many other revolutionary sites and relics have been discovered and ascertained and restored to the original state.

Among the slogans discovered are those praising President Kim Il-song, Comrade Kim Chong-il and anti-Japanese heroine Comrade Kim Chong-suk number several thousand.

Nearly 2,000 of them praise President Kim Il-song.

They include the slogans "The general star has appeared above Mt. Paektu. It shines over three thousand ri.", "Twenty million people are united with a single heart. President of independent Korea Kim Il-song", "Ours is the greatest nation in the world which has produced General Kim Il-song", "a general who shortens a hundred miles to a span has come down on Mt. Paektu", "Army of anti-Japanese General Kim Il-song starts general charge to liberate homeland," "We will attend General Kim Il-song, peerless hero of liberation, on the platform of liberation for millions of years", "Kim Il-song, sun of Korea and great hero of the world", which have profound and wide-range content.

Discovered in different parts of the country are slogans hailing the birth of Comrade Kim Chong-il as the glory of Korea and a great auspicious event of the nation such as "Baby general star appears above Mt. Paektu", "A lodestar is out on Mt. Paektu. It throws rays on three thousand ri", "Bright is the future of Korea on which shines the lodestar of Paektu".

"Anti-Japanese woman general marched into the homeland with general Kim", "Woman general of Mt. Paektu appears in Sinhung and Tanchon. One bullet pierce through a hundred Japs. Oh, her name is Kim Chong-suk (the lifeguard of General Kim Il-song)" and other slogans conveying long her brilliant revolutionary exploit and feats have been found in various parts.

And many slogans and cryptograms have been discovered, which show the lines and strategic and tactical policies of the Korean revolution, ardent love for the motherland and the Korean-nation-first spirit, staunch communist revolutionary spirit and unbending will, the course of activities and movements of members of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army and members of revolutionary organizations and their ideological and moral traits and of revolutionary way of life.

Over 2,700 revolutionary sites such as big and small sites of heated floor houses, tents, long range observation posts, cooking places used by the members of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army have been found. More than 3,900 revolutionary relics including parts of weapons, bullets, cartridges, copying-machines and cooking tools have been unearthed.

The slogan-bearing trees, revolutionary relics and remains are treasures of the Korean revolution and eternal treasures of the nation and great national treasures which cannot be bought with millions of pieces of gold. They serve as material evidences vividly showing in what scope and with what profundity the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle organized and led by President Kim Il-song was waged on a nationwide scale.

The work of unearthing slogan-bearing trees and revolutionary relics and remains continues.

Factory Development in Haeju City Viewed

SK2207104091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1017 GMT 22 Jul 91

[Text] Pyongyang July 22 (KCNA)—Haeju City which is situated on the central western coast of Korea is the seat of South Hwanghae Province, a major granary of the country.

In Haeju there are many factories serving agriculture including a phosphate fertilizer factory, a trailing farm machine factory, a tractor accessories factory.

Hundreds of thousands of tons of phosphate fertilizers and a hundred and several dozen kinds of farm machines including rice-transplanting machines, rice harvesters and trailing farm machines are produced annually.

The Haeju trailing farm machine factory is stepping up at the last stage the preparations for a serial production of a high-performance harvester combine which was recently developed.

Besides, there are a cement factory, a footwear factory, a textile mill and other large-scale central factories and nearly 40 local industrial factories, which form a densely distributed industrial system.

The local industrial factories produce more than 3,500 kinds of articles for daily use in large quantities.

Ceramics and processed food are most popular products of the local industry of the city.

Haeju has big deposits of high-quality Kaoline.

It is planning to do joint venture and collaboration with different countries in the ceramic and foodstuff processing industries.

Today the gross industrial output value of the city is more than 550 times that 40 years ago.

The city has also a major trade port of the country.

Several million tons of cargo transit through Haeju port in the western part of the city annually.

All the harbour work is highly mechanized and automated.

The city, with residential quarters extending more than 12 km along the coast line and the foot of hills, has many recreation grounds and parks such as Suyangsan and Kwangsokchon which go well with the scenery of the port city of culture.

The Nam hill in the city has also turned into a park.

A large-scale flower garden is now taking shape.

KCNA Review of 26 Jul Pyongyang Press

SK2607075091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0516 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang July 26 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a message of greetings sent by President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Republic of Maldives, on the occasion of the independence day of Maldives.

NODONG SINMUN reports that the great leader President Kim Il-song received solidarity letters from different countries supporting the joint statement of the DPRK political parties and public organisations.

The gist of the answers of President Kim Il-song to the questions raised by the president of the KYODO News Service of Japan was carried by a bulletin published in Poland, says the paper.

According to the paper, works of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were reported by various countries.

An article of the paper says Comrade Kim Chong-il made sure that a modern textile combine was built in Hyesan City, Yanggang province.

Under the title "Chong-il Peak rising high and shining as pride of nation" the paper carries the words of members of home-visiting groups of Koreans in Japan who visited the Mt. Paektu secret camp.

Printed in the paper is a message of greetings sent by the C.C. [Central Committee], the Workers' Party of Korea to Daniel Ortega Saavedra upon his election as general secretary of the Sandinist National Liberation Front of Nicaragua.

Given in the press is an account of an emergency enlarged meeting of the C.C., the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland [DFRF] held to discuss the present situation in South Korea and immediate urgent measures. Seen there are a statement of the C.C., the DFRF and a letter to the bereaved families of those who fell in the struggle for independence, democracy and reunification in South Korea which were adopted at the meeting.

Rice is doing unusually well, reports the press.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an article headlined "Wise Guidance of Party and Leader Was Decisive Factor of Victory in Fatherland Liberation War".

Carried in the press are the full text of an agreement adopted between the Korea-Japan Friendship Association and the Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea friendship and an appeal issued by the national delegation of the League.

NODONG SINMUN reports that the general secretary of the C.C., the Peruvian Communist Party met with a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Papers inform the readers that the consolatory team of school youth and students for coed Yim Su-kyong and Rev. Mun Ik-hwan could not go to South Korea owing to the obstructions of the South side's authorities.

In this connection, NODONG SINMUN runs a commentary under the title "Vicious Behaviour Ignoring Compatriotism".

Commentaries of the press denounce the South Korean authorities' crafty moves to foil the '91 pan-national rally and the grand reunification festival of students in the North, the South and overseas.

Printed in NODONG SINMUN is a statement issued to the press by Yun I-sang, chairman of the overseas headquarters of the Pan-Korean Alliance for National Reunification (Pomminnyon), in connection with the August 15 pan-national rally.

According to the paper, ONISHI, a member of the Japanese identification association, confirmed that the will of chief of the social affairs department of Chonminnyon [National Democratic Alliance of Korea] Kim Ki-sol who set himself ablaze and jumped to death, demanding the resignation of the South Korean present "regime," was written by himself.

Given in the press is an account of a press conference held at the Pyongyang mission of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) in connection with the publication of the white paper on the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula by the Hanminjon Central Committee.

Echoed in the press are world public voices demanding the withdrawal of the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea on the occasion of the June 25-July 27 month of anti-U.S. joint struggle and the immediate release of the pro-reunification patriots of South Korea.

A signature campaign was launched in the United States in demand of the rectification of the U.S. Korea policy, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN comments on the recent speculations made by some Japanese publications regarding the forthcoming fourth round of the talks for the normalisation of Korea-Japan diplomatic relations.

The paper reports that early normalisation of Japan-Korea diplomatic relations is demanded in different parts of Japan.

Papers give an account of a meeting marking the 38th anniversary of the July 26 armed uprising of the Cuban people held here and dedicate articles to this occasion.

International news columns of the press include reports that the work to prevent flood damages is being undertaken in China, Madagascar declared a state of emergency and the Indian paper TIMES OF INDIA expressed concern over the result of the summit of seven industrialized countries.

NODONG SINMUN observes the 26th anniversary of the independence of Maldives.

NODONG SINMUN carries an article headlined "Who Is a Real Manipulator of Capitalist State Politics" and MINJU CHOSON an article captioned "Bourgeois Democracy Is Anti-Popular 'Democracy'".

South Korea

North Proposes 29 Jul Contact for Premiers' Talks

SK2607033191 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0300 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Choe Pong-chun, responsible liaison official of the North side's delegation to the North-South high-level talks, today sent a telephone message to Kim Yong-hwan, responsible liaison official of our side's delegation. In the message, Choe Pong-chun proposed contacts of liaison officials at 1000 on 29 July at the House of Peace, on our side in Panmunjom, to discuss procedural matters concerning the fourth North-South high-level talks.

The liaison officials will discuss procedural matters concerning our delegation's visit to the North, itinerary in Pyongyang, and personal safety.

Kim Tae-chung Optimistic About Reunification

SK2607032991 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 26 Jul 91 p 2

[Text] Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung has echoed government officials' optimism about a rapid reunification process and foresees that the South and the North would form a confederation "within several years" as a loose form of unity for peaceful coexistence, exchanges and preparations prior to reunification.

He told foreign correspondents yesterday that either the South or the North might adopt his own idea of "Confederation of Republics" in a few years as "both sides believe it is an excellent idea... and modified their formal reunification proposals by using it."

Under the confederation system, in the first stage of his three-phase unification formula, each government sustains sovereignty in key domestic and foreign affairs but delegates a confederate administration and an assembly with "very limited authority" in matters relating to peaceful coexistence.

It could develop into one federal government and two autonomous local governments and evolve into full unification with one state and one government.

"Judging from all the trends existing today, I am confident that within several years, it is highly possible that in the first stage unification may be realized," Kim, president of the New Democratic Party said.

"As there is a high likelihood that the South and the North may issue a joint non-aggression declaration in next month's prime ministers' talks, it will lead to a summit meeting between the two heads of state, as the South has long cherished. Both may propose my confederation idea at that time.

"There is therefore probability that the South and the North will move in this direction within two or three years," he said when asked about growing relevance of his formula at a time when the two divided states will be admitted to the United Nations this fall.

"Before long," he went on, "I firmly believe that the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will exchange missions accredited to each other; free travel between the two Koreas will be allowed; and cultural exchanges and trade will be vigorously pursued."

He is opposed to a group of people who favor absorption of North Korea as was done in German unification and also to "sudden" reunification which he said would require South Koreans to bear the heavy costs as well as causing confusion.

"In Korea, there is a section of people who dream of German-style unification and I say that this is wrong. Above all, West Germany never had a policy of absorbing East Germany... Then, suddenly one day, the people of East Germany rose up and merged with West Germany.

"Under the circumstances, if any change takes place in North Korea, it is quite a different matter and one which we can deal with. If we should attempt to make North Korea a second East Germany, it will only weaken the position of the moderate and reformist faction in North Korea," Kim observed.

Even in practice, in view of Germany's experience, he said, "sudden unification" will bring about much confusion in terms of ideology and mental attitude. "It will also bring to us an overwhelming economic burden."

President No has said that he is confident that unification can be achieved in the current decade.

Asked whether he would run again for the presidency, he replied that he is not so much interested in being president as he is in elections for National Assemblymen and heads of local administrations, scheduled several months ahead of the presidential poll, at this moment.

Negotiations Underway for Cross-Border Resort

SK2507134791 Seoul YONHAP in English 1251 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Sokcho, South Korea, July 25 (OANA-YONHAP)—Sports and Youth Minister Pak Chol-on, the chief architect of South Korea's "nordpolitik," said negotiations are under way between South and North Korea through various channels to realize joint development of a cross-border tourist resort on the east coast of the peninsula.

Pak, in a specially-arranged "dialogue with the people" session here near Mt. Sorak, said the plan has it that Mt. Sorak in the South and Mt. Kumgang in the North be connected with each other and developed into a special sightseeing zone.

Speaking at the session, attended also by Prime Minister Chong Won-sik, the sports minister predicted that Seoul and Pyongyang will be able to agree through summit talks on a framework for reconciliation, coexistence and exchange before President No Tae-u steps down in February 1993.

Pak, a close aide to No, is credited with mapping out South Korea's northern policy that led to active diplomatic rapprochement with communist-bloc countries.

The sports minister said the government must build a large-scale international port on the country's eastern coast as the main location of trade with the northern countries to prepare for burgeoning exchanges expected in the future.

Daily Reports Daewoo Chairman's Visit to North

SK2607050191 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 26 Jul 91 p 1

[Text] It has been learned that Kim U-chung, chairman of the Daewoo Business Group, very secretly visited Pyongyang on 19 July and discussed with North Korea's high-ranking officials the possibilities of Daewoo Group's extending its business to North Korea and ways to promote North-South economic cooperation.

The Daewoo Group "officially" has denied this. However, sources well-versed in North-South affairs said on 25 July: "Chairman Kim left Seoul on 11 July to visit Thailand, Myanmar [Burma], and China. He visited Pyongyang on 19 July, successively met with North Korea's high-ranking officials, and returned home."

It has not been confirmed whether Chairman Kim met with President Kim Il-song during his stay in North Korea.

Previously, Chairman Kim visited North Korea right after the Beijing Asian Games and last May in his capacity as president of the ROK Soccer Association. This was his third trip to North Korea.

Chairman Kim visited North Korea right before North Korean President Kim Il-song met with the delegation of the Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship in Hamhung on 24 July and said: "I have no objection to the South side's proposal for trade, communications, and travel if a nonaggression declaration is adopted."

Chairman Kim is also chairman of the international private Economic Council of Korea, which serves as the ROK Government's channel for economic exchanges with northern countries. It was learned that during his visit to North Korea, he discussed with the North side's officials business deals with North Korea which the Daewoo Group has been pushing, as well as direct North-South trade, which the government has been carrying out, and other ways to promote North-South economic cooperation.

The Daewoo Group has been pushing ahead with plans to promote transit trade with North Korea via Hong Kong, Japan, and other countries; to build joint venture plants along the Tuman River in cooperation with China and Japan; and to open a trade office in Pyongyang.

The Daewoo Group exported 30,000 tons of Vietnamese-grown rice to North Korea in a Hong Kong buyer's name on 18 July. This was previously discussed last May when Chairman Kim was visiting Pyongyang in his capacity as president of the ROK Soccer Association. It has been learned that Daewoo is planning to more vigorously promote such transit trade with North Korea.

Further on Possible Visits

SK2607035591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0206 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 26 (YONHAP)—Kim U-chung, chairman of the Daewoo Business Group, paid a secret visit to Pyongyang on July 19, the daily CHOSUN ILBO reported Friday.

Quoting sources versed in inter-Korean affairs, the newspaper said Kim met with senior North Korean officials and exchanged views on Daewoo's possibilities of extending its business to North Korea and on South-North Korean economic cooperation while in Pyongyang.

It was not confirmed, however, whether Kim, who chairs the international private Economic Council of Korea, a business organization designed to coordinate trade with East-bloc countries, had met with North Korean President Kim Il-song, the daily said.

A spokesman for the Daewoo Business Group said the report was "groundless," adding Kim was staying at the same hotel in Beijing with Chong Chu-yong, honorary chairman of the Hyundai Business Group, on July 19 the date CHOSUN said he was in Pyongyang.

The National Unification Board said the Daewoo Group leader never submitted an application for contacting North Koreans to it and it had no knowledge of Kim's secret visit to Pyongyang.

Kim had visited Pyongyang twice right after the 1990 Beijing Asian Games and in May in his capacity as president of South Korea's Football Association.

He returned home July 21 after a 10 day overseas trip that took him to Thailand, Myanmar [Burma] and China.

Consultation Urged Before Firms Enter Siberia

SK2607083891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0633 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 26 (YONHAP)—The Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (Kotra) advised private businesses Friday to closely cooperate with the government in their plans to participate in the Siberian development projects.

The state-run organization also stressed in a report that South Korea should actively participate in the development plans of Siberia with a view to securing stable sources of raw materials and cementing the basis for a persistent cooperative relations with the Soviet Union.

Considering chronic shortage of hard currency in the Soviet Union, Kotra said, the government is desired to provide such incentives as financial and taxational supports to private firms to encourage them to actively participate in the Soviet development projects.

Kotra advised private firms to consult with each other in seeking business opportunities in Siberia to prevent excessive competition among themselves. Formation of consortium could be one good way of hedging risks, the report said.

Kotra picked Nakhodka, which is designated by the Soviet government as special economic zone, as a promising investment foothold for the Korean businesses.

* Japan, ROK Industries Transfer Technology

912C0234 Seoul HANGUK KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 16 May 91 p 9

[Article by reporter Kim Sung-yong: "Active Exchange of Industrial Information Between South Korean and Japanese Second-Generation Industrialists"]

[Text] The second-generation entrepreneurs in Korea and Japan are actively promoting exchange of technology and information.

Information exchange is being actively promoted through exchange visits between the Chongnok Association, which is led by president Yi Yong-chang (48) of Sudo Metals located at the Yongdungpo Machinery Complex in Seoul, and the Wakaba Association, which is made up of the second-generation entrepreneurs of the Federation of Toyama Machine Industrial Center in Toyama-ken, Japan.

At a time when most Japanese companies are unwilling to transfer technologies to Korea, the Wakaba Association is not only introducing all kinds of technologies but is also transferring technologies to the member companies of the Chongnok Association without receiving any technology royalties.

The Chongnok Association is made up of 11 businessmen, all of whom are in their forties or late thirties, including President Yi who is also president of the Association, President Chu Se-hyon (39) of Samyong Machinery, President Choe Chin-sik (43) of Hungkuk Industries, Managing Director Choe Chae-hwan (44) of Samchin Industries, Executive Director Kim Sang-hoe (47) of Hyopsong Machinery, and President Yi Ki-an (46) of Taeho Enterprise.

The Wakaba Association was founded in 1989 by the second-generation entrepreneurs of the Tanaka Group, an automobile parts manufacturer in Japan.

It was July last year when the second-generation entrepreneurs of Korea and Japan began to exchange actively.

In July last year, members of the Chongnok Association visited member companies of the Wakaba Association in Japan. On the other hand, members of the Wakaba Association visited the Yongdungpo Machinery Complex in August. Thus, they made exchange visits a customary affair. Under the sponsorship of Tanaka Kiichiro, chairman of the Tanaka Group, they agreed to exchange trainees once a year.

From 11 to 14 April, the Chongnok Association dispatched a second group of trainees, who are mainly plant workers, to the Toyama Industrial Machine Center.

Through participation in serious discussions among the teams of Japanese workers at the plant, the dispatched trainees could truly experience the work of the great economic nation Japan.

While on a bus, the trainees even had a discussion with Chairman Tanaka on labor-management problems.

During the assembly line tour, the trainees were given detailed explanations on technical matters in which our workers are interested. They were also given an opportunity to apply the techniques.

Chairman Tanaka, who established the bridge for an active exchange between the Chongnok Association and the Wakaba Association, is the founder of Toyama Industrial Machine Center, which is the first national industrial complex designated by the Japanese Government in 1960.

In the 30 years since then, Chairman Tanaka helped establish 90 enterprises in nine industrial parks in Toyama-ken with private funds. He is particularly interested in entrepreneurs with new technologies.

In 1973, he introduced the idea of establishing a sisterhood relationship between the Federation of Toyama Industrial Machine Center and the Yongdungpo Machinery Complex. He is a friend of Korea who has provided all kinds of support in the development of the Yongdungpo Machinery Complex.

It is said that the attitude of the workers and managers who completed the exchange training program has changed quite a bit.

First of all, the workers arrive early at their work site.

There is a definite difference in productivity when the workers face the machines immediately after the rush hour in the morning and when the workers begin to operate the machines upon their arrival 30 minutes early, explains President Yi Yong-chang.

Also, young businessmen who are members of the Chongnok Association are taking the lead in production work. If a member shows a sluggish attitude, he is promptly advised to think of Japan.

President Yi Yong-chang said that through the exchange with the Wakaba Association he "learned that investment in manpower is more important than investment in facilities." He said that he would like to have all employees participate in the exchange training program in Japan.

"Since the training in Japan, the workers' attitude has changed, and the atmosphere in the Complex has also changed," says Kim Song-hyon, chief director of the Yongdungpo Machinery Complex.

Fisheries Groups Statement Issued With Japan

SK2607035191 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 26 Jul 91 p 6

[Text] Korean and Japanese fisheries cooperatives yesterday issued a joint statement calling for the maintenance of the current tariffs on imports of fisheries products.

In the statement, Yi Pang-ho, chairman of the Korean National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives (NFFC), and his Japanese counterpart Yoshihide Uchimura said they shared the view that both sides are required to take joint steps to cope with the free trade talks now under way at the 27th Korean-Japanese fishing cooperation council meeting held June 18-19 in Tokyo.

The two agreed to request their governments to keep tariffs on imported fisheries products as part of their joint efforts to tackle issues related to the Uruguay Round negotiations, the statement said.

It is the first time that Korean and Japanese civilian fisheries bodies have made a joint statement on the free trade talks. Some countries, including the United States, uphold liberalization of international trade through the removal of all tariffs, while Japan and South Korea seek to allow some tariffs on imported fisheries products in the talks.

The statement reads, "Korean and Japanese fishermen face an increasingly difficult situation coupled with management crisis resulting from deterioration of fishing resources and price hikes as well as worn-out production facilities and reduced operation of boats."

"The Korean and Japanese civilian fisheries associations resolved to ask their government for retaining the current tariffication system to protect the livelihood of their poor fishermen," said the statement, adding that the trade talks are feared to disrupt their efforts to conduct management reforms.

The announcement of the statement was made belatedly because of its wording though the meeting was held last month, a Korean side spokesman said.

South Korea exported fisheries products worth $1,513 million and imported $368 million last year for a trade surplus of $1,145 million in the fisheries sector.

The NFFC expects that the removal of all tariff barriers could bring about a sharp boost in imports of foreign products, thus having an adverse impact on the domestic fishery industry.

Singapore Minister, Yi Sang-ok Discuss APEC

SK2607102091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0947 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 26 (OANA-YONHAP)—Singaporean Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng said Friday he favors establishing a formal coordination committee for successfully developing the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

The Singaporean leader, in a meeting with visiting South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok, said such an instrument is necessary for effective management of APEC, a report to Foreign Ministry here said.

Wong's was the first affirmative response to the committee to come from a leader of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) where opinions are split on institutionalizing such a mechanism.

The Singaporean foreign minister acknowledged that some ASEAN nations are showing dissenting views on this issue but said he believes the committee is necessary, the report quoted him as saying.

Seoul will be hosting the third APEC ministerial conference in coming November where the question of the committee establishment is likely to be dealt with extensively.

Yi arrived in Singapore Thursday after attending ASEAN post-ministerial conference (PMC) between six member countries and seven full-dialogue partners.

The PMC members, excluding the European Community, make up APEC.

The two foreign ministers also discussed admission of the so-called "three Chinas"—the Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan—to APEC and Wong promised full cooperation in handling this issue.

Predicting Seoul-Beijing diplomatic normalization soon after South Korea's entry to the United Nations expected this September, the Singaporean foreign minister proposed continued bilateral cooperation at both APEC and ASEAN PMC.

Yi met with Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong later in the day where the premier said he hoped to visit South Korea at an early date.

Seoul, Tehran Agree on Economic Cooperation

SK2607085191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0639 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 26 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Iran agreed to expand economic cooperation through joint ventures, simplified procedures for trade and operation of direct air routes in a meeting of their joint commission adjourned Friday.

During the three-day session of the economic and technical cooperation commission, the two countries agreed on Korean enterprises' participation in construction of subways in Tehran and of a shipyard in Bandar 'Abbas, and establishment of joint ventures in Iran to produce color televisions and automobiles.

The two countries also agreed to enhance banking cooperation, to simplify red tapes for trade, and to open direct air routes between Seoul and Tehran, and reached an agreement in principle on Iran's participation in the Taejon Expo 1993.

Delegations to the joint commission meeting were headed by Korean Trade and Industry Minister Yi Pong-so and Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, Iranian minister of petroleum.

Korean officials said Hyundai and Daewoo Group subsidiaries might take part in the construction of subways and a shopping mall in downtown Tehran, and in building a shipyard in the port of Bandar 'Abbas.

The two countries are planning to set up a joint venture producing 25,000 automobiles a year. Iran has expressed the hope to form a joint-venture mining and metal company with Korea and to see Korean firms' advancement into the steel industry of Iran.

To facilitate the planned expansion of economic cooperation, the two sides decided to prepare for the signing of agreements on avoidance of double taxation, investment protection and exemption of social security tax.

The Iranian delegation stressed the need to increase export of non-oil products and industrial goods and the Korean side agreed to give favorable consideration to the import of such non-oil products as industrial and mineral items.

Seoul will cooperate for Iran's holding of an exhibition of Iranian non-oil products, with the right of sale. It will favorably consider taking measures to facilitate Iranian access to the Korean market, Korean officials said.

The Iranian delegation said trade procedures, particularly those related to opening L/C (letter of credit) and consular ratification, would be simplified.

In accordance with a memorandum of understanding concluded on Aug. 22, 1990, the two countries will hold the first meeting of the cooperation Committee for Posts and Telecommunications development (CCPTD) in Tehran in the near future.

The two governments will cooperate at the international congress of the Universal Postal Union to be held in 1994.

Iran Awards Daewoo Contract To Build Railway

SK2607090291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0838 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 26 (YONHAP)—Daewoo Corp. was awarded an order worth 151 million U.S. dollars from Iran for the construction of a 13 kilometer-long railway roadbed.

Ground will be broken on Aug. 1 for the construction of the span, which will link Bandar Abbas-Bafq railway segment, which is also being built by the trading and construction unit of the Daewoo Business Group.

A spokesman for Daewoo said the 13 kilometer portion is scheduled to be completed by February 1994.

Reports on Kim Yong-sam, No Tae-u Relations

SK2607025691 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 26 Jul 91 p 2

[Text] Choe Hyong-u, newly appointed first state minister for political affairs, eyes the maintaining of "good relationship" between his boss Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the ruling party, and President No Tae-u.

He flatly denied reports that the relations between the two top leaders of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] have turned sour recently mainly because of their differences in future political courses of action.

"I am sure that President No and executive chairman Kim are maintaining and will maintain a good relationship," said Choe, referring to the fact that No and Kim sit together once a week to discuss party affairs.

He said in an interview with The Korea Times yesterday, "I believe that the two leaders talk to each other in a very constructive way, though the details of their conversations are rarely made public. It is very important that the two meet once a week."

Political observers say that the future political landscape will depend upon the developments of relations between President No and Kim, No. 2 man in the ruling party, who needs No's support for his nomination as presidential candidate. Kim, who heads a minority faction in the DLP, is waging an uphill battle with the largest faction, "Minjonggye," composed of followers of President No.

In that respect, Choe's appointment to the post of liaison officer between the administration and the parliament is attracting attention from political circles.

"I will serve as a bridge in an honest manner between President No and executive chairman Kim. I will report to the two leaders about political developments as they are," said Choe, 56, who is famous for his straightforward manner.

"As a Cabinet member, I will faithfully serve the President, which is also serving the party and executive chairman Kim."

He also said, "If necessary, I will give 'bitter-pill' advice to executive chairman Kim Yong-sam from an objective perspective."

Along with his predecessor Kim Tong-yong who resigned from the Cabinet post without portfolio because of his poor health, Choe has served as a righthand man for Kim Yong-sam for more than two decades. He was elected to the National Assembly for four times in Ulsan and Pusan. Before his appointment as state minister, Choe was chairman of the Assembly Energy-Resources Committee for one year.

Asked about the prospects for his boss Kim Yong-sam to win the party's presidential nomination with the support of President No, Minister Choe said that there will be some "ups and downs" before the nomination.

He said he had a mixture of emotions when he was notified of his appointment on July 18 because he was taken into the Defense Security Command for interrogation on the same day 11 years ago.

"In the political world, there is neither a permanent enemy nor permanent friend," said Choe.

Kim Yong-sam, Kim Tae-chung Oppose New System

SK2607033791 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 26 Jul 91 p 2

[Text] Ruling and opposition party leaders Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung yesterday opposed changing the parliamentary electoral system from the current single-seat formula to a multi-seat one.

Kim Yong-sam, executive chairman of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP], said, "The multi-seat system will not ensure the House majority for the ruling party plus it would allow several parties to come into existence, resulting in political instability."

He added, "The formula will require more money be spent on campaigning and candidates from the same party will play one against the other, igniting internal feuds."

Kim made his remarks flatly rejecting any change to the electoral system during a meeting with a group of junior DLP members.

He noted that it is better to stick to the current single-seat system, in which one lawmakers is elected from each constituency, while at the same-time making some adjustments to the formula plus introducing a regional proportional system.

His remarks can be interpreted as an opposition to talk about switching to a "multi-seat-district" system which is favored by many in the DLP's largest faction, Minjonggye.

Kim Tae-chung, president of the New Democratic Party, clarified, "There is no change in our party's position of adopting the parliamentary Cabinet system."

He went on, "I declare my opposition to the parliamentary Cabinet system, irrespective of the outcome of the coming parliamentary elections."

The opposition leader made the remarks during a press conference with foreign correspondents.

He added, "Our party will adhere to the single-seat system which guarantees a two-party system and a chance for new faces as well as costing less in terms of campaigning than the multi-seat formula.

Chong Challenges Kim Tae-chung's NDP Leaders

SK2607030591 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 26 Jul 91 pp 1, 4 (Weekend Supplement)

[By staff reporter Sin Yong-pae]

[Text] Chong Tae-chol is in agony these days.

He has to challenge the authority of Kim Tae-chung, the charistmatic leader of the opposition New Democratic Party [NDP], with whom he spent many turbulent years as opposition politicians together.

The three-term legislator feels increasingly alienated from many party members who accuse him of being opportunistic.

Chong, however, is determined to crack open what he sees as the anachronistic one-man rule by Kim in the opposition party.

It is definitely not an easy job, given the fact that an absolute majority of party members are loyal followers of Kim.

But he believes that his current efforts will bear fruit, thus transforming the party into one genuinely capable of grasping power.

He may risk his political career, as warned by some NDP lawmakers. But political analysts say Chong also has the chance to become a prominent next-generation political leader.

What aches the 47-year-old lawmaker most is the possibility of losing his long-held personal ties with Kim.

Chong says his family has special ties with Kim. His father, the late Dr. Chong Il-yong, a renowned opposition politician, patronized Kim.

Chong's mother, Yi Tae-yong, also used to work in cooperation with Kim, as a human rights lawyer and dissident leader. She is known to be the nation's first female lawyer.

When Kim was tried by a court martial on charges of treason in 1980, Yi took the witness stand to testify in defense of Kim.

Chong is a rare case in that he succeeded his father as a legislator. He was first elected to the National Assembly in a by-election held in Seoul's Chongno district to fill a vacancy caused by his father's death in 1977.

He may have owed his election to his late father's reputation. But he has already demonstrated his potential at the Parliament.

He headed the Education-Information Committee when it sponsored a public hearing about the mass dismissal of journalists in the early 1980s, and was deeply involved in the revolutionary changes in the Family Law.

Chong, who studied law at Seoul National University and gained a doctoral degree in political science from the University of Missouri, is also regarded as one of the most reform-minded national assemblymen.

He was banned from politics for several years under the authoritarian regime of former President Chon Tu-hwan. He also experienced a defeat in the 1984 parliamentary elections.

Such hardships helped strengthen him as an opposition politician, and now he plays a leading role in efforts to create a unified opposition under new leadership.

Last month's humiliating defeat of his party in local assembly elections appears to have provided decisive momentum for Chong to challenge Kim.

He and several other reform-minded colleagues called for drastic reforms in party operations and Kim's retirement from politics. They were of the view that Kim stands in the way of an opposition merger, and unless there is a merger, the opposition can hardly defeat the mammoth ruling party in elections.

Perhaps Chong is the bravest of those reform-minded lawmakers. During a party caucus, also attended by Kim, he said in clear terms that Kim should step aside for the interests of the opposition.

Such a direct attack against Kim had been unthinkable in the past.

Chong's initial effort failed, however. He and his colleagues were outnumbered by Kim's followers who argued that the NDP could not exist without Kim.

Despite the failure, Chong pledged to continue his endeavors for reforms in the party.

"It is obvious that the party will be humiliated again in next year's parliamentary elections should the party leadership not be revamped," he said.

He also called for the removal of the party's image as a "regional party." To do so, he says the party should realize a "grand opposition merger," which would include the splinter Democratic Party as well.

Chong is now taking part in the "Study Group for Political Development," an intraparty circle of party lawmakers and officials pursuing reforms. A majority of its lawmakers are those elected from Seoul and adjacent areas.

His political future now may depend on whether his current call for reform succeeds or not.

Already a promising politician, Chong may aspire to become the opposition's standard-bearer if he emerges successful from his endeavors for opposition merger and generational changes.

Money for Nomination Scandal Splits Factions

SK2607035291 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 26 Jul 91 p 2

[Text] Conflict between mainstreamers of the New Democratic Party [NDP] and a group of its young Assemblymen is simmering and about to erupt into a hot struggle with a lawmaker charging Kim Tae-chung with receiving 300 million won from Cho Chan-hyong in return for his nomination as the NDP's parliamentary candidate in 1988.

Kim's loyalists referred Yi Hyong-pae to the NDP disciplinary committee for his revelation of the story Wednesday which has created a serious emotional split between the two factions.

They convened yesterday a meeting of party executives and member Assemblymen to denounce the minority group, to which Yi belongs, in what was seen just as a kangaroo court before applying sanctions against him at the disciplinary panel.

It was Sunday when the seed of conflict, sown with the formation of the Political Development Institute by a dozen young lawmakers, most of them from Seoul, grew to challenge Kim Tae-chung's hitherto undisputed leadership and taint his personal image.

Kim, pressed to step aside from active control of the party since its defeat in the June 20 local council elections, invited institute members to lunch to appease them and engaged in five hours of free-wheeling debate, which worsened the situation, far from contributing to increasing mutual understanding.

Cho Yun-hyong, de facto leader of the group, reminded Kim of the "fact" that the final candidate for Chollapukto's Namwon City was changed to Cho instead of Yi when Cho's friend showed the NDP president a copy of checks which Cho presented Kim's confidants for the nomination.

Charges Withdrawn Against Opposition Lawmakers

SK2507134291 Seoul YONHAP in English 1142 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 25 (OANA-YONHAP)—The prosecution in a very rare decision Thursday withdrew its charges against four opposition lawmakers.

Spokesman Pae Chae-ok for the Prosecutor-General's Office (PGO) announced it was also calling off public actions against former Agriculture Minister Pak Chong-mun and former ruling party lawmaker Yi Sang-chae.

The four cleared opposition assemblymen are Reps. Mun Tong-hwan, Yang Song-u and Kim Yong-chin of the New Democratic Party (NDP) and Rep. No Muhyon of the Democratic Party (DP).

A PGO spokesman said the prosecution has decided to cancel public actions on the six cases upon careful deliberation of request by the National Assembly asking "leniency" for the legislators within legal boundary.

The unprecedented decision immediately touched off a suspicion that close, secretive negotiations between ruling and opposition camps might have been underway.

Mun, younger brother to the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan arrested for secretly visiting North Korea, was booked in March 1989 for abetting a security law violator after giving the reverend 300 U.S. dollars for the illegal trip.

Kim was booked on violence charges in July last year during national assembly committee session. He and about 20 other NDP lawmakers seized microphones and threw name plates while trying to block passage of the NDP-opposed broadcasting law.

Yang was booked in October 1989 after manhandling a traffic officer who tried to ticket him on parking violation.

No was charged in December 1988 for illegal interference in labor dispute during a strike at Hyundai Heavy Industries Co.

Former Agriculture Minister Pak had been charged with perjury.

* Survey Reveals Public Opinions on S&T

912C0227A Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 4 May 91 p 3

[Article by reporter Yi Chu-ho: "Poll Reveals Public Concerned Over Environmental Pollution, Favors Nuclear Power Plants"]

[Text] The importance of science and technology is growing, but only a small number of people want their children to become scientists. For example, only 7.6 percent of the parents with sons and 1.1 percent of the parents with daughters want their children to become scientists. According to a public-opinion poll, our standards of science and technology lag about 30 years behind the United States and 23 years behind Japan. Here is a summary of the results of the "Public-Opinion Survey on Science and Technology," which was conducted in April by the Gallup Institute at the request of the Korea Science and Technology Promotion Foundation.

Science and Technology and Future Society After 30 Years

The survey showed that 82 percent of the general public is concerned that the problem of environmental pollution could become serious because of scientific and technological developments. In the case of medicine, a large number of people felt highly optimistic about fighting various diseases. For example, 72.6 percent and 67 percent respectively answered optimistically regarding the possibilities of "conquering cancers" or "controlling prenatal sex."

However, a majority of the people answered pessimistically in the following areas: life expectancy of over 100 years, weather control, creation of new animals and plants, and substitution of robots for physical labor. This indicates the public sentiment that no matter how far science and technology may take us, there exists a territory of nature that the human must not attempt to conquer.

Influence of Scientific and Technological Development

About 61.6 percent of the respondents answered positively to the question of whether scientific and technological developments "do more good than bad."

On the positive side, 64.6 percent referred to a "convenience of life." On the negative side, 54.6 percent referred to environmental pollution and contamination. Other negative items were: application of high technology weapons in warfare (10.5 percent), threats to human lives (10 percent), loss of humanity (7.9 percent), and loss of jobs (rise in unemployment rate) (6.5 percent).

The majority of the general public (91.8 percent) saw the contributions of science and technology to economic development favorably, and said the scientific and technological developments led to an improvement of "individual standards of living," "working conditions," and "enjoyment of individual lives," but said morals became worse. The following items were pointed out as concerns resulting from scientific and technological development: invasion of privacy, individual inability to catch up with the pace of development, increase in mental stress, and abuse of science and technology.

Nuclear Power Plants

Two out of three people (67.6 percent) in our country expressed positively that our country, which lacks natural resources, needs nuclear power plants to produce an inexpensive and stable supply of electric power. In terms of safety, however, 62.3 percent expressed their concern over the "danger" of nuclear power plants.

Compared with this, only 22.6 percent said nuclear power plants are "safe," thereby indicating the importance of safety in nuclear power plants.

Preferred Occupation

When asked about occupations for the respondents' children, 7.6 percent of the respondents favored science for their sons, whereas 1.1 percent favored science for their daughters. The following, in order of preference, are the occupations preferred by the respondents for their sons: education (14.2 percent), public service (11.9 percent), medical profession (8 percent), and legal profession (7.8 percent).

Standards of Science and Technology

Most people believe that the standards of science and technology in Korea lag about 30 years behind the United States and 23 years behind Japan. The following reasons were given: insufficient investment in research and development (55 percent), insufficient investment in science education (19.9 percent), and a low perception of science and technology by the general public (13.3 percent).

Science and Technology in the Future

The survey showed that only one out of three people predicted our science and technology would rank among that of the top 10 countries in the world by the year 2000.

Only 10.8 percent of the people think a Korean will receive a Nobel prize in a scientific area within five years, which is a relatively negative response. About 40.3 percent said our country needs improvement in basic sciences, in particular.

Perception of Science

A large number of people, 57.3 percent, said they do not believe in fortune-telling, astrology and fortune-tellers' predictions of marital harmony. However, a good number of people, 40.2 percent, said they "tend to believe" in fortune-telling. In addition, the survey showed that one out of five people had consulted with fortune-tellers last year, and 48 percent said they believe extraterrestrial beings exist, whereas 23.9 percent said otherwise. When asked about the theory of evolution and creationism, 49.9 percent, the largest number, agreed to the theory of evolution.

Ministry Outlines Energy Role in 5-Year Plan

SK2607083691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0729 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 26 (OANA-YONHAP)—The nation's capacity for power generation will grow to 34.41 million kilowatts by 1996 while the oil refining capacity will rise from 990,000 barrels at present to 1.23 million barrels a day by 1993, according to the energy-sector plan included in the seventh five-year economic development plan (1992-96).

The Energy and Resources Ministry said Friday the handling capacity of liquefied natural gas (LNG) at the western port of Inchon and Pyongtaek City will be upgraded from the annual 1 million tons to 8 million tons. The strategic stockpile of oil will be increased from an equivalent to 41-day to 60-day consumption by 1996.

The plans also call for the supply of LNG to provincial capital cities, except for those in Kangwon and Cheju Provinces, by 1996 and expand it to smaller cities by the year 2000.

The government will lift its control on the petrochemical industry and allow private businesses to stockpile oil.

Controls on the selling prices of gasoline and kerosene will be lifted from next month and imports of those oils will also be liberalized. Imports and prices of other oils such as bunker-c oil and diesel oil will be liberalized after 1983.

In addition, the government will encourage wider use of natural gas for air-conditioning of buildings and let the state-run Korea Electric Power Co. raise the purchase price of electricity produced by private companies in an effort to promote electricity business in the private sector.

It plans to expand electricity supply network to all islands where more than 50 families are living and remote villages where more than five households are living.

Also in the plans are joint development of the continental shelf with foreign companies, promotion of natural resources development in the Soviet Union and China beginning with small-sized projects such as oil fields in the Soviet Sakhalin Island and lead and zinc mines in Jilin Province of China.

Firms To Expand Eastern European Trade Branches

SK2607083791 Seoul YONHAP in English 0428 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Seoul, July 26 (YONHAP)—South Korean general trading companies, buffeted by protectionism as by a looming formation by industrialized countries of trade blocs, are looking to Eastern Europe for their markets, business sources said Friday.

Trading arms of Hyundai, Daewoo, Samsung, Lucky-Goldstar and Sunkyong have set out plans to expand their branch networks in Eastern Europe eyeing as outlets for consumer goods, machinery and plants for economic development, according to the sources.

Prague will be the next candidate for a branch office for Hyundai which added Sofia last month to its Eastern Europe network covering Moscow, Nakhodka, Warsaw, Budapest and Zagreb.

Daewoo set up branches in Belgrade and Warsaw in April and May, respectively. It secured a foothold in the region when it set up its branch in Budapest in November 1988.

Samsung moved its Europe headquarters from London to Frankfurt early this year and set up a Soviet-Eastern Europe department there to beef up its operation in Eastern Europe, the sources said.

Samsung plans to establish branch offices in Sofia and Bucharest by the end of the year. The planned offices are in addition to those in Warsaw, Budapest, Prague and Zagreb. It envisages setting up branches in Leningrad, Khabarovsk and Dalian by the end of 1992.

Lucky-Goldstar will create a branch office in Bucharest in September, in addition to those in Warsaw, Zagreb and Prague.

* Hyundai To Increase Exports to European Market

912C0224A Seoul HANGUK KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 3 May 91 p 8

[Article by Wang Song-sang: "Hyundai Motors Plans To Export 100,000 Passenger Cars in 1993"]

[Text] Taking advantage of its participation in the September auto show in Frankfurt, Germany, a center for the European auto industry, Hyundai Motors hopes to find a larger market in Europe.

Hyundai plans to start the sales right after exhibiting four of its passenger car models, the Excel (export name, Pony), Scoup, Sonata and Elantra, in Germany.

Considering the fact that Germany is the biggest automobile market in Europe, as well as a center for automobile technology, Hyundai's venture in Germany appears rather uncertain.

Hyundai reasons that securing an automobile market in Germany, known for her strict standards, is like conquering the world market. It hopes to sell over 100,000 passenger cars a year in the European market by the end of 1993. Its sales then will increase to 1 percent of the European market from the present Korean share of 0.2 percent (mostly Hyundai cars), making it comparable to such well-known Japanese makes as Toyota, Nissan and Honda.

Hyundai exported 30,057 passenger cars to Europe last year while the number was 15,150 between January and April of this year, a sixfold increase compared with the figure during the same period last year (2,427). The industry predicts the rate of increase will accelerate even faster for next year. Germany is the world's third largest automaker, producing annually over 4.6 million cars such as Volkswagen, Opel, Ford, Mercedes Benz, BMW, Audi, and Porche. Germany exported 2.6 million cars, while importing 980,000 foreign cars, 32 percent of her auto market, in 1990.

The demand in new cars has increased by about 60,000 autos in Germany since the unification of East and West Germany, and her imported car market is expected to grow in the future.

Hyundai began to promote the German market in 1987. Under the policy of diversifying the export market, Hyundai decided to concentrate on opening the new European market, establishing the "German Export Team" within the company. The "German Export Team," residing in the Federal Republic of Germany, studied the German market. Hyundai had attempted to establish a branch office in Germany under the wing of Japan's Mitsubishi Trading Company's German branch. The plan failed, however, due to some unfavorable conditions.

As a result, Hyundai had to abandon the plan to exhibit its models at the 1989 Frankfurt Motor Show.

Hyundai's management decided to study the situation more carefully rather than rush into the German market.

At this time, Hyundai decided to aim for the markets in Switzerland and Japan instead of Germany. Because of the cultural similarities between the two countries, Switzerland was chosen as a testing ground for the future German market, while Japan was targeted because of its close proximity, which would offer many transportation advantages.

Hyundai Motors opened its Swiss branch in June 1989, and has been selling cars since March of last year, supplying over 2,500 passenger cars like the Scoup. The result has been surprisingly good, with over 200 cars a month sold. Appreciation for Hyundai's passenger cars has been growing in Switzerland, and its Elantra models are also showing up in the Swiss market as of this month.

The trial sales of Hyundai cars to test the Swiss customers' reactions have gone unexpectedly well, and the success of the sales has become known even in nearby Germany. Since middle- and small-size cars are more popular in Germany and Switzerland, the industry sources reason that Hyundai cars should compete favorably there. Since Volkswagen is the only small-size car maker in Germany, the country's demand for small cars exceeds its supply.

While the North American auto markets prefer middle and large-size cars, middle-and small-size cars occupy over 70 percent of the German market.

In the Japanese market, on the other hand, our automaker can hardly compete with the superior technologies of such well-known Japanese automakers as Nissan and Toyota. Also the difficulties of securing show rooms and car dealerships as well as the high wages and incidental expenses in Japan make it almost impossible for Hyundai to make any profit in Japan. Therefore, Hyundai has in effect scrapped the Japanese market, after a two-year try, by dissolving its "Japan Project Team" in the beginning of last year.

After the successful trial sales in Switzerland, to make up for its unsuccessful Japanese market, Hyundai has been preparing for full-scale German sales, having twice tested its four car models inside the country by last November. On 18 March, a German car inspector was invited to the Hyundai Ulsan plant to inspect the safety and pollution standards on these cars, which have now passed the inspection.

Prior to this, on 21 January, Hyundai incorporated a sales affiliate, HMDG (Hyundai Motor Deutschland G.m.b.H.). It is in the city of Heilbronn, Baden Wurttenberg, located between Frankfurt and Stuttgart, and it has a capital of 10 million marks (about 4.3 billion won), of which Germany's AMH Company owns a 75 percent share, Japan's Mitsubishi Trading Company 15 percent and Hyundai Motors 10 percent.

AMH is the world's largest Ford dealer, selling 20,000 Ford cars yearly in Germany alone.

Mitsubishi also has the experience and know-how of selling cars in Germany for 15 years.

Hyundai will sell passenger cars through 80 HMDG dealers throughout Germany. If necessary, it intends to cooperate with its joint venture companies in the strategic planning of merchandising, facility investment, and promotional advertisement. HMDG plans to increase the number of dealers to 100 by year's end and to 160, twice today's number, by next year. These dealers will handle only Hundai cars, including the sale, customer service, supply of auto parts, and service after the sale.

Hyundai anticipates selling a total of 6,600 cars in Germany this year, 12,200 in 1992, and 93,000 in 1995.

Hyundai will start producing the cars for the German market as of next month and the first shipment of 700 cars will leave Ulsan for Bremerhaven, Germany early in July.

* Imports Increase More Rapidly Than Exports

912C0225A Seoul HANGUK KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 2 May 91 p 3

[Article by reporter Kim Ki-ung: "Heated Imports Overshadow Exports"]

[Text] Imports are increasing too rapidly. Although exports are gradually recovering this year with a two-digit rate of increase, the more rapidly increasing imports concern the policy makers.

Consequently, exports, which have been gradually recovering over a long period of time, are being overshadowed by the snowballing deficits of trade and international payments.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry, which is responsible for imports and exports, originally expected the rate of imports to stabilize from last March when the crude oil price fell substantially from the high war-time price. This expectation did not materialize. The rate of increase in imports, which was 15.4 percent in March, rapidly increased to 31.7 percent during April, resulting in a monthly trade deficit of $1.136 billion. Some people expressed their concern by saying, "The rate of increase in imports has reached a level that is out of control."

Analysts indicate that major factors for the rapidly increasing imports are the lingering effect of the Persian Gulf War and the rapidly increasing demands for certain consumer goods due to a heated domestic demand and capital goods caused by an increase in facility investment.

First of all, the effect of the Persian Gulf War was the biggest cause. The crude oil price, which was $15 to $16 per barrel before the war, soared to $27.5 in January. During the first quarter of 1991, crude oil imports reached $2.47 billion, 70.8 percent higher than the same period last year.

The import of oil-related products such as naphtha increased by 64 percent. In addition, chemical imports amounted to $4.06 billion, a 26.7 percent increase.

The problem is that the import of petrochemical products has continued to increase even after April. This indicates that there are problems associated with the rapid increase in domestic oil consumption and with the industrial structure of high energy consumption.

Second, machinery imports are rapidly increasing together with increasing facility investment.

The investment in factory automation is rapidly increasing this year, reflecting the worsening manpower shortage. It is also true that the government support aimed at reinforcing the competitiveness of the manufacturing industry is a factor contributing to the increasing facility investment. This causes an increase in machinery imports, especially from Japan, which is pointed out to be the major factor for increasing the trade deficit with Japan.

Third, heated domestic consumption and a prevailing propensity toward extravagance are also important causes of increased imports.

A representative domestic consumption is the construction boom. The import of cement and iron reinforcing rods, of which there is a serious domestic shortage, is being substantially increased.

The import of these items is expected to continue to increase in the near future. The import of hot coils and acrylic fibers is also increasing.

On the other hand, the increase in imports of nonessential consumer goods, such as sanitary paper products, by 133.5 percent during the first quarter, is not negligible. Shoe imports amounted to $25 million, a 46.9 percent increase, and toy imports amounted to $5.2 million, a 39.5 percent increase. Imports of extravagant items such as musical instruments and sports equipment is also increasing.

Kim Kyun-sop, chief of Export Section One of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, pointed out that there are other aspects that contributed to the rapid increase in imports, in addition to the three major factors. They are the import of items related to the defense industry, which has not traditionally been categorized as import but is currently categorized as import, and the purchase of $400 million worth of commercial airplanes early this year.

The rapidly accelerating imports have changed the traditional pattern of trade balance. The trade balance with the United States, which has been producing a surplus, turned red during the first quarter of 1991. Imports from Japan amounted to $4.921 billion, a 16.6 percent increase compared to the same period last year.

Accordingly, the trade deficit with Japan reached a record high of more than $2 billion during the first quarter. An overall modification to the various government plans, including the five-year trade deficit reduction plan, is necessary to reduce the trade deficit with Japan.

Imports of goods for domestic consumption are increasing far more rapidly than the goods for export. During the first quarter of 1991, the increase in imported materials to be used in making products for export was just 7.5 percent, whereas the increase in domestic consumption was more than 34 percent. This is somewhat related to the heated domestic consumption.

Two leading import items are raw materials and capital goods, which have increased by 28.3 and 20.2 percent respectively. It is to be noted, however, that imports of consumer goods have also been substantially increased by 23.8 percent.

The rapid increase in imports puts lot of pressure on trade policy makers. Chong Ki-su, import section chief of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, said, "Although we know that the increase in imports is by no means desirable, the government has no alternative policy for discouraging it."

It is true that the government had various measures in the past for reducing imports by either systematically blocking the import of specific items, or by putting importers under pressure to restrain themselves. An example of such measures was the tax investigation for import companies. Such old-fashioned measures no longer work because they may cause trade friction with export nations. Furthermore, under the current trade environment, import companies will no longer blindly obey the government request, according to Chong.

Hwang Tu-yon, export department head of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, suggested, "The countermeasures to import increase should be more productive."

In other words, the trade deficit should be compensated by increasing exports, rather than restricting imports. Hwang also pointed out, "In order to increase exports, there is an urgent need to expand the existing facilities, together with increasing the competitiveness of our products." "From this standpoint, the current import structure, which is heavily inclined toward raw materials and capital goods, may not be necessarily bad," Hwang added.

It is clearly a serious obstable in our economy, however, that imports are increasing more rapidly than exports.

The current economic climate requires a renewed effort to restructure and reevaluate the fundamental problems of our economy, such as the energy-intensive industrial structure and the export structure which are heavily dependent on imports, which are the major causes of the rapidly increasing imports.

* History, Nature of 'Skeleton Squads' Revealed

912C0222A Seoul CHUGAN CHOSON in Korean 12 May 91 pp 10-15

[Article by reporter Sok Chong-hun: "'Skeleton Squads' Have Over 4,200 Plain-Clothes Members Throughout the Country Trained in Assault-Type Arresting Methods Such as Twisting Wrists; Their True Character Revealed on the Occasion of the Fatal Beating of Kang Kyong-tae"]

[Text] It was about 1830 on 19 April when tension ran high in the streets of Seoul with rumors that college students would soon hit the streets in demonstrations to mark the 20th anniversary of the 19 April student uprising.

Suddenly, a cheap noodle restaurant located near the Koriana Hotel on Taepyongno 2, Seoul, was seized with an atmosphere of fear. Robust youths kicked the door down and entered the restaurant, shouting "you xxx's, if you don't get out quickly, we will kill you." Frightened by the threatening attitude of the intruders, three women in their early twenties who had entered a short time before stood up from their table. They looked like coeds. The intruders quickly approached the women who stood aghast, and forced them to get out. Looking around the room, they drove all the young customers out.

It dawned on the customers who were surprised by this sudden disturbance that the intruders were combat policemen on duty to prevent guerrilla-like demonstrations and break up any gathering of young people who looked like college students.

Undoubtedly, the behavior of these young policemen wearing white helmets and blue pants and armed with metal pipes made the customers in this restaurant angry. But, completely cowed, none of them dared to protest. It was only after the policemen left that some of the customers got up and left, saying they were disgusted.

The youths who intruded into the noodle restaurant are combat policemen belonging to what is known as a "skeleton squad." Seven days later, five combat policemen wearing white helmets frantically beat Kang Kyong-tae to death with metal pipes while they were cracking down on the demonstration of Myongji University students. In the aftermath of this incident, Home Minister An Kyong-mo was forced to resign taking responsibility for it, and the whole country was thrown into political chaos.

Not only the dissident camp and students but also the opposition parties came out with the demand that the skeleton squads be disbanded. What is the real character of the skeleton squads, which are being criticized as a synonym for police violence and as "outlaws" at demonstration sites?

The name skeleton squads conjures up the image of organized crime. Nowhere in the table of organization of the police, with 130,000 strong including 54,000 combat policemen and what they call uikyong, are to be found the words "skeleton squad." Yet, at each labor dispute or during each campus demonstration in the past, there arose the demand for the dissolution of the skeleton squads. Needless to say, behind this demand is the fear of the skeleton squads.

The origin of this novel organization—characterized by the blue pants, simple attire, and canvass shoes of its uniform; the agility of movement and the imposing looks of its members; and the white helmets they always wear—can be traced back to the plain-clothes mobile force of 150 men organized in June 1976. This plain-clothes mobile force inaugurated at the Songdong Police Station in Seoul was transferred to the Yongsan Police Station in October 1976, and then moved to its current large headquarters in the Mapo area in February 1984.

For the purpose of preventing violent crimes and arresting violent offenders, this mobile force was first made up of policemen with black belts in martial arts. But in February 1986 it underwent a change in character as the Ministry of Home Affairs selected 1,700 or more policemen with black belts in martial arts in seven major cities, including Pusan, Taegu, and Kwangju, and organized them into plain-clothes police companies under the mobile force for the purpose of cracking down on demonstrations instead of its original purpose of engaging in activities designed to crack down on violent crimes.

Currently, this organization, commonly known as plain-clothes arresting squads, consists of 32 companies in all, with a total strength of over 4,200 men. The breakdown of the 32 companies is: 17 companies with 2,200 or so ordinary policemen; 14 combat police companies with over 1,800 members, who became notorious for beating Kang Kyong-tae to death; and one crime-prevention patrol company.

The duty of these plain-clothes policemen is to make on-the-spot arrests of major wanted security law offenders or the leading organizers of the demonstrations at the demonstration sites. Ordinary policemen mobilized to crack down on demonstrations cannot chase fleeing demonstrators because they are wearing helmets and combat attire. This is where lightly armed plain-clothes squads come into play. However, it is not easy to make on-the-spot arrests of student demonstrators at violent demonstration sites. The police are bound to encounter stubborn resistance from students armed with stones, firebombs, and clubs, and there is the great danger of being taken prisoner in the course of a skirmish with the demonstrators.

For this reason, people seeking to be members of plain-clothes anti-riot squads are subject to strict screening in the selection process and undergo rigorous training once they join the squads. They have to have black belts in taegwondo, kendo, and other martial arts to qualify. When they are admitted, they undergo incessant training in martial arts. In the case of the combat police, however, not all members are necessarily black belt holders due to the manpower shortage. Nevertheless, people who are at least 1.75 meters tall and weigh at least 70 kilograms are preferred. The squad members are taught arresting skills necessary to effectively apprehend student demonstrators, skills such as twisting the wrist, pressing down on the shoulders, and other assault-type motions necessary to neutralize the resistance of those being arrested. In addition, they repeatedly undergo spiritual education so that they do not become skeptical about what they are doing. They receive spiritual training once a week. The theme of the training is that they should deal with demonstrators by maintaining a resolute and dignified posture with faith in their work and a sense of mission because the demonstrators are violating the law by disturbing the social order.

It was during the sit-in in Konguk University in October 1986 that the might of these anti-riot squads first manifested itself. The students who staged a sit-in after seizing the library and the main university building were driven out of the buildings without any effective resistance once a plain-clothes squad was thrown in. From 1987 on, each time strikes in Ulsan, Koje Island, and elsewhere escalated into violent demonstrations, plain-clothes squads were thrown in without exception and distinguished themselves in cracking down on the demonstrations.

One commanding officer of the riot police said: "The use of a plain-clothes squad can also have a preventive effect along with an effective arrest, in the sense that it can strike fear in the hearts of the demonstrators and thus have a withering effect on the demonstration." He added, "the squads prove to be twice as effective as the ordinary riot police."

Some Skeleton Squad Members Have Blind Hostility Toward College Students

However, the graet effectiveness of plain-clothes anti-riot squads in cracking down on demonstrations always poses a problem because it is attended with police "violence." During the December 1987 sit-in against the illegal removal of ballot boxes from the Kuro District Office, Yang Won-tae, a Seoul National University student, was beaten with metal pipes by a plain-clothes squad and dropped from the fifth floor of the Kuro District Office, sustaining a serious injury which paralyzed the lower part of his body. Since then, acts of major and minor violence have been repeated in the process of cracking down on demonstrations. This propensity toward violence on the part of the plain-clothes squads continued to intensify, climaxing in the course of cracking down on the inaugural convention of the National Council of Labor Unions held in Suwon in January 1990, when a squad broke up the meeting brandishing clubs with nails.

Concerned police authorities claim that the increasingly violent nature of demonstrations is responsible for this kind of police violence. Their contention is that police also have to arm themselves because demonstrators armed with firebombs and metal pipes cannot be caught with bare hands.

Yi Chong-yong, director of the security department of the National Police Headquarters, said that "prior to a crack-down operation, police are always told that they should never use any equipment other than that officially supplied." "However," he added, "when they are attacked by students in the course of a clash, young plain-clothes anti-riot squad members become momentarily agitated and often act with an overwhelming sense of retaliation." He explained that the Kang Kyong-tae case took place when squad members were agitated at the sight of their fellow squad members being hit by firebombs.

However, the dominant view is that the more fundamental causes are the excessive suppressing posture and the negligence in the management of the plain-clothes riot squads. They say the authorities press for the arrest of the king-pin organizers of demonstrations no matter what happens, and call into question any squad member who fails to make a high mark in arresting them, and this has resulted in excessive acts of suppression.

As a matter of fact, when plain-clothes riot squads catch several demonstrators on the spot, they customarily commit merciless violence against them under the pretext of breaking the spirit of all the demonstrators. In fact, their commanders acquiesced in this kind of method because, for one thing, it proved to be effective.

Some times commanding officers and veterans demand violence from squad members. The family members of Policeman 1st Class Yi Hyong-yong, who brandished a metal pipe against Kang Kyong-tae, said that the police officer was always worried that "I have no choice but to be aggressive because if I am passive in a crack-down, the veterans will discipline me." Another plain-clothes squad member said: "We are human beings also. Who would be so fond of resorting to violence as to become an object of scorn as a skeleton squad member?" He added, "When we receive orders to round up students during a demonstration in which firebombs fly and clubs are brandished, we have no choice but to resort to violence."

The low quality of some riot policemen is also a problem. With emphasis on sturdy physique, it is unavoidable that in some cases, men with a propensity toward violence, or even those with a blind enmity toward college students, are admitted into plain-clothes squads. What is more, squad members are allowed to have long hair and their not-too-serious mistakes are overlooked as a kind of reward for their hardships, but this kind of leniency is prone to foster a misplaced sense of superiority. Policeman Yi Kyong-ho, then of the detective section of East Taegu Police Station, who caused the death of a drug informer who was playing Russian roulette at the Narak Restaurant in Sinchon-tong, the East District, Taegu, was a former skeleton squad member. This incident gave rise to a strong demand within the police that mental screening be stressed in the selection of policemen skilled in martial arts.

In the aftermath of the Kang Kyong-tae case, there arose a strong demand that "the skeleton squads be disbanded." But as things stand now, it seems that there is little possibility that the plain-clothes anti-riot squads will disappear. The basic position of the police is that to disband the plain-clothes squads under the circumstances in which the demonstration-prone campus atmosphere remains unchanged is to abandon the suppression of demonstrations.

Clearly, the plain-clothes squad is one of the monsters born of the peculiar realities of our country. But, no ready conclusion can be drawn on it at this juncture when there is no sign that the realities which gave rise to the situation mentioned above will change.

Burma

Ambassador Comments on U.S. Sanctions

BK2607010591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Jul 91 p 6

[Text] Washington's decision to impose economic sanctions by not renewing a textile agreement with Rangoon is unlikely to have a significant impact, according to Burma's Ambassador to Thailand, U Nyunt Swe.

He told the BANGKOK POST, however, that the decision is unlikely to affect the Burmese government's commitment to combating opium production and drug trafficking.

He also welcomed ASEAN's decision to reject US demands that the regional organisation should pressure Rangoon to hand over power to a civilian government.

During the ASEAN foreign ministers meeting with their dialogue partners in Kuala Lumpur this week, the US announced its sanctions decision which effectively means Burma will have no quotas for textile exports to the US.

This will make access to the market more dificult, thus reducing the $9 million income Burma derives from the agreement, which amounts to about 40 per cent of its exports to the US.

The US cited the Burmese military government's violation of human rights, its refusal to hand over power to a legally elected government and its failure in enforcing drug suppression as reasons for imposing sanctions.

The ambassador said he is "surprised" at the US statement that Rangoon is not combating opium production and narcotics. In late January, Bangkok journalists and a senior official of the US Embassy in Rangoon witnessed the burning of a huge amount of narcotics in Chin Shwe Haw in Kokang in northern Burma.

The US official had told SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] Secretary Maj-Gen Khin Nyunt that he would report the matter to the US State Department.

"Now they are accusing us of not doing enough. I am surprised," the ambassador said.

Rangoon officials have said that last year they held three displays in which narcotics were destroyed in the presence of United Nations' officials.

Asked if he thought the US decision would have an impact on his country, the ambassador said everyone knows the situation in Burma.

"Our country is not rich. But our present government is going according to our plan. We are not going to rely on rich countries."

He said both Burma and Thailand "don't need to ask from some other country for our living and accommodation.

"We produce rice, you produce rice. You produce cotton, we produce cotton. You have bamboo, we produce the same. Our country is not rich.

"My personal idea concerning the pressure in Kuala Lumpur is: We don't need to bother about them, we have to carry on according to our plan.

"Our government is working for the good of the people. We can survive. Maybe there will be some delay in the programme of development. I'm not sure. If you compare imports and exports of our country, nine million (dollars) is not much. We are not very much affected by this," he said.

Despite the US decision, the ambassador said his government will continue its policy to crack down on narcotics.

The US decison on sanctions came when the United Nations' Development Programme announced that it had begun a programme with the Rangoon government to persuade hilltribes people to abandon opium cultivation.

The programme is worth about US$1.3 million and is the first time Rangoon has asked for such assistance. The programme is aimed at implementing crop substitution with the Kokang, Wa and Shan people.

Washington has said that 40 per cent of heroin reaching the US comes from Burma.

The ambassdor said that by June this year his government had spent up to 300 million kyats in developing minority areas which used to be involved in opium trafficking. Most of the money was spent on improving infrastructure, crop substitution and livestock breeding.

He disputed estimates that about 2,000 tonnes of opium is produced from Burma annually.

Kokang leaders who have agreed to cooperate with the central government in developing the country have promised that 1,500 acres of poppies will be destroyed this year and more next year, he said.

The ambasador quoted Kokang leaders as saying that 1,500 acres of poppies produce about 6,600 kilogrammes of opium (about 6.6 tonnes). "To produce 2,000 tonnes of opium would take more than 500,000 acres. They cannot grow poppies as in the rice fields. They accuse us of 2,000 tonnes. How can we produce this? So it's nonsense," he said.

Asked about allegations by certain minority groups which traffick in heroin that local Burmese commanders may be turning a blind eye to the trade, the ambassador said: "I don't think so. The terrain in our country is very rough. We cannot reach all the area. That is the main reason.

"Some junior or senior officers are not ignoring (the policy) but they cannot reach every part of our territory."

The ambassador said he is pleased with ASEAN's response to US pressure, particularly that of Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin, who told US Secretary of State James Baker that Burma should not be isolated from the international community.

Mr Asa had said that Thailand would adopt a policy of "constructive engagement" regarding Burma.

The ambassador said Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun's statement was most accurate: that "no one can move the location of Myanmar. We are neighbours."

"We cannot run away from Thailand, Thailand cannot run away from Myanmar [Burma]," he said.

He also said Rangoon will welcome a visit by Philippines' Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus, who has been assigned by ASEAN to be in contact with Burma.

Asked about the possibility of Burma joining ASEAN, the ambassador said: "All of our friends have asked us to join ASEAN," but he noted that the primary objective of the government now is to maintain law and order.

He said such a major policy decision has to be made by the government that comes to power after Gen Saw Maung.

Asked when political changes will occur, the ambassador said that in a couple of months an election report will be submitted to the government. Then the remaining elected representatives and others will be asked to form a national assembly and draft a constitution.

He said Burma's situation is not like Thailand's where the government can stipulate a date when the constitution will be drafted.

Asked about ties between the Burmese and Thai top military brass, the ambassador said relations are good and have drawn close since 1987.

On allegations and the perception that certain Thai military leaders benefit from or are involved in business and logging deals sealed with Rangoon, the ambassador said: "As far as I know they don't have any involvement in business."

Thai officials had never raised issues of human rights and democracy with Burmese leaders.

"As far as I know they will not intervene in our internal problem.

"During the Prem, Chatchai and Anan administrations they were telling us the same idea and policy. Until now, there has been no discussion about human rights and democracy and handing over power."

Asked about criticism that the Burmese government's decision to allow Thai timber firms to fell trees in Burma will result in widespread loss of natural forests and reserves, the ambassador said:

"I think you can trace back about 20 years in your country the use of raw timber for domestic use or for export.

"In general, every year most of the businessmen bought it through the insurgents, the Karens and the Mons, who stole the property of the country and sold it at a low price to buy arms.

"In 1987, both sides agreed to legalise the illegal business. We issued three or four concessions, studied these pioneer projects and then we gave more."

The ambassador said he believes the amount of timber felled is no different to that in past years and denied that there is mass felling. The logging agreement between the two governments is "good for our two countries.

"We are selling to get foreign exchange. No one can deny that countries need foreign exchange. Had the deal not been sealed before the logging ban then there would be political problems in Thailand.

"Therefore, politically you gain. Economically we gain and politically and economically the insurgents lost," the ambassador said.

Daily Accuses 'Manipulators' of Upsetting Economy

BK2507143091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1109 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Rangoon, July 25 (AFP)—The state-run working people's daily newspaper Thursday accused money manipulators of spreading rumors to try to destabilize Burma's economy.

The daily urged Burmese citizens not to heed rumours that the country's military junta intended to take 200, 90 and 45 kyat (31, 14 and seven dollar) notes out of circulation.

The paper denounced "greedy manipulators," who it accused of "deliberately engaging in a whispering campaign to make the Burmese currency unstable".

"Rumours concerning demonetization, especially the 90 kyat denomination, are totally untrue," the newspaper said.

Certain denominations were declared worthless overnight on three occasions during 26 years of the so-called "Burmese way to socialism" which was officially abandoned in 1988.

Analysts believe the last such demonetization in 1987 was one of the causes of the unprecedented anti-government demonstrations the following year.

Rumours of an impending demonetization have intensified recently, especially in business circles, causing brisk trading in large department stores selling luxury goods and on the gold market here.

"The rumour, particularly that big currency notes such as the 200, 90 and 45 kyat notes were to be withdrawn as legal tender and replaced by a 500 kyat denomination, has forced up the prices of commodities such as television sets and video players, as well as gold," the report said.

As a result of the rumours of demonetization—as well as of counterfeit 90 kyat notes being in circulation—people have been trying to get rid of their large denomination notes, despite government assurances that no such move will be made, the newspaper said.

It said the 90 and 200 kyat notes, the highest values in circulation, were being used more than any others.

"There is even a system in place where different prices are being quoted depending on the currency being used," the paper said.

Lao Ambassador Presents Credentials to Saw Maung

BK2607084391 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] The newly accredited ambassador of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the Union of Myanmar [Burma], Mr. Kideng Thammavong, presented his credentials to Senior General Saw Maung, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] of the Union of Myanmar, at the Defense Ministry's Dagon Yeiktha this morning at 0930.

Present at the occasion were Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary- 1 of SLORC; U Ohn Gyaw, deputy foreign minister; and Thura U Aung Htet, director general of Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

U.S. Decision To Study EAEG Concept Hailed

BK2607101491 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] The United States Secretary of State James Baker has said that his country would study the East Asia Economic Group, EAEG, concept further. The latest position taken by the United States from the idea proposed by Malaysia is indeed a positive development. This is more so in view of the ferocious attack hurled by the United States and other Western economic powers at the proposal.

Right from the time Malaysia mooted the idea, they claimed it would be a trade bloc leaning towards protectionism. But now the air has been cleared. Following the meeting between Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed and Mr. James Baker the idea is getting a better reception. Besides the United States, ASEAN countries have indicated support for the EAEG calling for further dicussions on it. This is understandable as no idea could be implemented without prior study. There is now progress being achieved on the idea. For a start the second meeting of the ASEAN working group on the EAEG has been scheduled to take place in Singapore. There, a report will be submitted to the ASEAN foreign ministers and ASEAN economic ministers—a move seen as further advancing the proposal. Here it is important to stress that the EAEG is not aimed at being a trade fortress. Instead it is designed to be a forum foundation in the region to discuss common economic problems and concerns. It would also enable member countries to have a common approach on issues in other economic organizations in all parts of the world—which would have a bearing on business in this part. Even with such a background, it is baseless for the United States and other economic powers to view it with skepticism.

The United States is not alone in getting so much value on free trade. ASEAN countries are also on the same boat. The ground work for the EAEG is being set up. It is too early to decide on eventual membership for there is no need for opposition towards it. Moreover, EAEG would not be competitive or undermine the proposed Asia-Pacific economic grouping. Therefore, it is time that the United States change the notion that just because it is excluded from the EAEG the grouping would be counter-productive.

There is also another prejudiced outlook that needs some changing. When developed countries organized themselves into trading groups, it is done in the name of free trade. But when developing countries follow the same act, it is branded as protectionist.

From this source contributions from other ASEAN countries towards the EAEG is important. After all, it should become an Asia-ASEAN initiative later on. The EAEG should be seen as a complimentary forum to increase trade among East Asian countries. As a result, it would make the Asia-Pacific region a center of growth.

A closer East Asia and a strong Americas will form the foundation of the bridge linking both Asia and the Americas across the Pacific. Also, it would be consistent with the principles of free trade of the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade or GATT. Therefore, there should be no further misconception—rather an available group in the East Asia region would provide economic and trade opportunities for the rest of the world. Despite all this, it is relatively a new idea. As such rather than shooting it down, it should be given a chance to work.

Australian Minister Says Relations Normalized

BK2607093691 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0908 GMT 26 Jul 91

[By Syed Imran Alsagoff]

[Text] Singapore, July 26 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Australian Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Gareth Evans Friday expressed the view that relations between Australia and Malaysia have been fully normalised.

I think it is now possible to say that relations have been fully normalised, he told reporters at Changi international airport before departing for home.

He was hopeful but could not guarantee anything when he stated in Kuala Lumpur that "the whole thing was over".

Senator Evans, who made a stopover here after attending the just-concluded ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference in Kuala Lumpur, added he was now certain that relations between the two countries were back to normal.

In Kuala Lumpur, he met Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed and conveyed a "conciliatory message" from Australian Premier Bob Hawke.

As for other things, Senator Evans said "we have to wait for the passage of time" but he was confident that scheduled meetings and official functions would be reinstated.

During his talks with Dr. Mahathir, he proposed that both countries develop a cultural exchange programme to include journalists so as to bring about better understanding.

He said the Australian government realised the need to make its media aware of the cultures of neighbouring countries.

Article Views Bilateral Relations With Indonesia

BK2507091191 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 23 Jul 91 p 26

[By Ismail Kasim of the Foreign Desk]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur—Malaysia-Indonesia relations are on course despite a host of minor bilateral issues, including a nine-year-old dispute over Sipadan and Ligitan islands and the continued detention in Indonesia of a Malaysian fishing vessel and 13 of its crew since early this month.

An indication that ties remain warm and cordial was given in a short official announcement on July 14 that the Malaysian and Indonesian Armed Forces would conduct a combined two-week operation in southern Johor from July 29.

The report, which was buried among other items in the news pages of a Malaysian daily, made it clear that the coming joint land exercise, code-named Malindo Darsasa 3AB, would be the first ever between the two armed forces.

Diplomats stationed here said it would take more than just a fishing boat to upset bilateral ties between the two countries. As a spokesman from the Indonesian embassy here put it, the detention "is a small, routine problem, which can be resolved at the appropriate level. There is no need for anyone to get excited".

The Malaysians have played down the incident. From officials to the public and media, they have reacted cautiously to the taking of the 100-tonne Pulau Banggi.

If reports from eye-witnesses can be taken at face value, the incident took place about nine km south of Sipadan, well within the exclusive economic zone claimed by Malaysia.

In contrast, the Indonesian public reacted more strongly more than a month ago when their media highlighted reports of Malaysia turning the disputed Sipadan into a fishing and diving resort.

As memories of last year's hanging of an Indonesian drug trafficker by Malaysia are still fresh, armed forces chief Gen Try Sutrisno has advised his countrymen not to turn the issue into a confrontation between the two nations

Most diplomatic observers read the detention of the vessel, which is owned by the Sabah Fisheries Authorities, as being related to Indonesian unhappiness over the Malaysian attempt to change the status quo over the islands.

"The fact that the boat and the 13 fishermen have yet to be released underlined that the initiative for the action went beyond the Kalimantan authorities. How far up is a matter for speculation," said an ASEAN diplomat.

In his opinion, it could be a tit-for-tat action to drive home the Indonesian claim that there was an understanding between the two countries to leave the status quo on the islands unchanged pending the outcome of on-going negotiations. They have been talking since 1982, with the last round held only two months ago.

At the height of the public furore in Jakarta in early June, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told an international news agency that Indonesia had been aware for some time that Malaysia had begun developing Sipadan.

"On several occasions we have drawn Malaysia's attention to put a stop to it as it was not in line with the status quo," he said. He added that the Indonesian moves did not amount to a protest. "They were just reminders."

Both the disputed islands are in the Sulawesi sea, near the East Malaysian state of Sabah and the Indonesian province of East Kalimantan.

Sipadan, described here as the only oceanic island in Malaysia, is about 35 km or 40 minutes by boat from the Sabahan town of Semporna. The only inhabitants are some illegal Filipino settlers, and there are also reports of Malaysian traders travelling frequently to the place in search of turtle eggs.

Ligitan, another 70 km to the east, is uninhabited.

Sipadan, which is four ha [hectares] in size and surrounded by coral reefs, has become a paradise for divers as it sits on the edge of an underwater cliff.

Syarikat Borneo Divers and Sea Sport Sabah Sdn Bhd [Private Limited] have promoted the island as the ideal diving destination, aside from building marine tourist facilities such as 12 cottages, a bar and a cafe.

No one expects the islands dispute to harm the long-term bilateral ties between Indonesia and Malaysia. Relations between them are sufficiently strong to withstand the occasional friction.

All this is reflected in the cooperation between their armed forces, in the Joint Borer Committee and in the recent decision to set up a Joint Commission to handle routine problems.

Another example cited by observes is the way in which the two countries recently resolved the problem posed by the sudden arrival of more than 100 Acehnese seeking refuge in Malaysia.

Most of them fled their homes to escape the escalating violence between the armed forces and separatist rebels and might face reprisals if they were sent back.

It was a potentially disruptive issue, but mutual restraint prevailed. After talks, the Malaysians agreed to regard the Acehnese as illegal immigrants and deport them at the discretion of the government, without making any prior announcement or alerting the Indonesian authorities.

In the case of the detained vessel, efforts to resolve the issue were made at both federal and state levels.

The opposition-ruled Sabah administration sought the help of the Indonesian consul general, Hidayat Iskandar, stationed in Tawau to secure the release of the boat and the fishermen.

At federal level, Wisma Putra [Foreign Ministry] officials also initiated a dialogue with the Indonesian embassy here and through their Jakarta mission.

Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has said that the Joint Commission would discuss the conflicting claims over the two islands and the detention of the fishing vessel and its crew, all of whom are Sabahans.

He did not rule out informal talks on the incident during the just-ended annual ASEAN Ministerial Meeting.

The two islands form only a tiny part of the unresolved border between Indonesia and Malaysia on the island of Borneo. Large areas remain undemarcated because of the difficulties of the forested terrain and conflicting claims.

According to the Malaysian news agency, Bernama, only half of the 1,813 km common border separating Sabah and Sarawak from Kalimantan has been marked since demarcation work began in 1975.

Both sides agred not to set any time limit for completing their task, which could take another 25 years.

Other contentious bilateral issues to be discussed at the first Joint Commission meeting to be headed by the respective foreign ministers would include illegal Indonesian migrants in Malaysia, fishermen held by both countries for fishing in each other's territorial waters and the question of additional flights for Malaysian Airlines.

Although relations between Malaysia and Indonesia are likely to remain good, observers here feel that the former would like to see ties improving further over the long term.

As they see it, the main obstacle is the contradiction in the Malaysian stance vis-a-vis Indonesia.

One the one hand, there are key elements in Malaysia which want to develop ties along the "abang-adik" (big brother-little brother) axis, arguing for a special relationship because of their common cultural heritage.

On the other hand, the Malaysian leadership under Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed has been carving out an active role for the country in the international arena for the last 10 years.

His initiative on the East Asia Economic Grouping proposal to fight protectionist tendencies in the West and his high-profile diplomacy on a range of issues, from South Africa, Antarctica to non-alignment, tended to overshadow the more cautious contributions of Indonesia under President Suharto.

Said a diplomat: "Dr Mahathir certainly doesn't behave like an adik to President Suharto."

This irks some sections of Indonesian society which tend to regard Malaysia as some kind of an upstart, compared to the pre-eminence of their country in the international arena during the Sukarno era.

Reports from Jakarta also suggest that influential policymakers in the country prefer developing ties with Malaysia on the principle of mutuality of interests rather than on the perceptions of a shared ethnic and language heritage.

Iraqi State Minister Arrives With Message

JN2507184891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 25 Jul (INA)—Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, [Iraq's] minister of state for foreign affairs and President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy to Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed, arrived in Kuala Lumpur this evening.

The president's personal envoy will convey to the Malaysian prime minister an oral message from his excellency concerning the recent developments following the 30-state aggression against Iraq and Iraq's policy and position on a number of international issues, as well as issues of mutual concern to the two friendly Muslim countries.

During the visit, the minister of state for foreign affairs will discuss bilateral relations with Malaysian Foreign Minister [title as received] Datuk Abu Hassan Omar.

President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy left Baghdad at dawn today on for Malaysia as part of a tour that will take him to a number of friendly states in southeast Asia.

Baker's Call for Middle East Peace Talks Noted

BK2507103991 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Malaysia's increasingly significant role in international affairs gained further recognition when she was asked to use her influence to get the Middle East conference moving before the end of the year. The request came from none other than the United States Secretary of State Mr. James Baker, who was in Kuala Lumpur this week to attend the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference.

He is obviously banking on Malaysia's close ties with the Palestinian Liberation Organization, PLO, which is the main offended party in the Middle East conflict. Prior to his Malaysian visit Mr. Baker had made a five-nation tour of West Asia in the United States quest for negotiations between Tel Aviv and Arab nations to bring about a durable peace in that volatile region.

Malaysia has time and again stressed her concern for the Middle East situation. While she feels honored in being asked to play a role in the peace process, she strongly feels that the United States must do its part in pressuring Israel to respect the various United Nations resolutions on the Middle East. This was plainly pointed out by Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed in his talks with the United States Secretary of States. Malaysia views the continued resettlemwnt of Jews in occupied territories as a sign of intransigence on the part of Tel Aviv and its defiance of the United Nations resolutions on this crucial issue.

Before the United States called for peace negotiations it has to be responsible for [words indistinct] erstwhile and even hurting the Palestinians further through its persistent resettlement action in the occupied territories. This is what the rest of the world wants and that which has to be respected.

Malaysia has always supported UN resolutions on the various issues of global concern. While she wis a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council last year she went along with the resolution on the use of force to evict Iraq from Kuwait which it had invaded and occupied. Mr. Baker himself was reported to have expressed his appreciation for Malaysia's support for that resolution and said that the United States realized how difficult it was for Malaysia to have taken the stand in view of the fact that the battle to follow was going to involve a Muslim brethren.

It is on the same basis that Malaysia now expects the United States to do whatever within its means and power to prevent further Isreali aggression in the occupied land. Every effort must be made to make Tel Aviv respect the United Nations resolutions on the question of Palestine and the right of Palestinians to enjoy a life of peace and freedom—free from strife, conflict and oppression.

Malaysia's stand on this issue is clear. As Dr. Mahathir pointed out to Mr. Baker, Malaysia has always spoken out loudly and decisively on many international issues because she believes in her convictions and expressions in the spirit of democracy.

Singapore

Direction of ASEAN Discussed in Daily

BK2507103491 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 25 Jul 91 p 26

[Editorial: "This Way to ASEAN Summit"]

[Text] Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher used to warn that it would be more difficult to maintain political and economic stability in the post-Cold War era. This is because when the ice begins to thaw, the ground gets more slippery. ASEAN foreign ministers meeting in the Malaysian heat last week must have grasped what she meant. The end of the superpower Cold War and the seeming approach of a solution to the long-ranging Cambodian issue—both of which, for so long, provided the ideological glue to hold the association together—seem to be quickening regional political developments. The stark choice that ministers meeting in Kuala Lumpur faced was whether to chart new directions to boost economic and political cocoperation or run the risk of becoming irrelevant. Given that ASEAN has little choice but to respond to the trend towards regionalism in Europe and North America, the ministers were right to endorse the Thai proposal for an ASEAN Free Trade Area. Described as a "quantum leap" in strengthening economic ties, this plan would turn the region into a huge borderless economy of no less than 200 million people. This is significant, for unless the ASEAN countries can match other regional groupings in implementing structural reforms to boost economic integration, investors may be tempted to take their capital to bigger and freer markets elsewhere.

Indeed, some commenttors have compared the ASEAN Free Trade Area to the 1986 Single European Market Agreement, which committed the european Twelve to setting up a borderless Europe by 1992. This may seem somewhat grandiloquent. After all, the record of ASEAN efforts at economic integration since its inception in

1967 is far from impressive. Proposals such as the Philippines' plan for an ASEAN Treaty of Economic Cooperation and the Indonesian call for a Common Effective Preferential Tariff Scheme on a sector-by-sector basis, which were discussed at the third summit in Manila in 1989, are still being talked about. If the latest Thai idea is not to suffer the same fate, work on fleshing out the agreement must continue apace, in the hope that substantive agreements can be reached at the summit to be held in Singapore in January. The same, too, could be said of the East Asian Economic Grouping. The aim, ultimately, should be for these new arrangements to serve as the nucleus around which wider economic and political cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region might e centred.

Grappling, too, with the task of establishing a new regional balance in the post-Cold War era, the ministers wisely accepted the Japanese proposal to expand the scope of the Post-Ministerial Conference (PMC) with their seven dialogue partners to cover security issues as well. Of course, there is more to security than just military considerations. But in the immediate aftermath of the Cold War, as the region begins to deal with diffculties of replacing one strategic balance with another, the PMC will serve as a useful forum at which the region's major players can discuss issues which impinge on their security.

For example, as Japan steps up its military contributions towards multilateral peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts—as eventually it must—the PMC could serve as a valuable avenue for the Japanese to allay the doubts and fears of their neighbours in the region. In this regard, it was heartening to note that the Japanese took the oportunity of the recent PMC to make clear that they, too, welcomed the continued presence of the Americans in the region as a stabilising factor. So just as ASEAN might be the basis for wider economic and political cooperation in the region, the PMC could evolve into a structure for regional political and security cooperation. Quite a bit then has emerged from the Kuala Lumpur meeting, and much follow through is needed. If it is undertaken, the agenda for the ASEAN summit in Singapore will be a heavy one, indeed. But, possibly, a fruitful one, too.

Pact Signed on Industry Productivity Promotion

BK2507075891 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0614 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Singapore, July 25 (BERNAMA)—Malaysia and Singapore have signed a memorandum of understanding [MOU] to promote and improve productivity of industries in both countries.

For a start, a 10-month consultancy project will be carried out on the productivity performance of the wood-based industry in the two countries from October. The MOU was signed here yesterday between Singapore's National Productivity Board (NPB) and the Malaysian National Productivity Council (NPC).

Major areas listed under the MOU include consultancy, research and information dissemination and training, according to the Singapore Broadcasting Corporation (SBC) Thursday.

Cooperation in consultancy will involve studies on the comparative productivity performance of selected industries in both countries while information dissemination will take the form of sharing productivity materials and regular exchange of staff between NPB and NPC.

Both sides have also agreed on joint training programmes in various areas of management, productivity and quality.

The MOU was signed by NPB Chairman, Mah Bow Tan, who is also Acting Communications Minister, and NPC Chairman, Azman Hashim.

Mah said the MOU marked a new chapter in the mutually beneficial relationship between the NPB and NPC. It also signified their commitment to improve productivity of industries.

Cambodia

UN Overland Aid Convoy Arrives in Phnom Penh

BK2607071691 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0427 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK July 26—An overland convoy of the United Nations transporting medical aid arrived in Phnom Penh Thursday from Bangkok after two days' travelling, said Dennis McNamara, deputy special assistant to the UN secretary general in charge of humanitarian affairs, at a press briefing here yesterday evening.

The 15 mini-truck convoy carried 7,100 kg of medicines against malaria, tuberculosis, and leprosy worth some 200,000 U.S. dollars. The load was transferred to two Cambodian Red Cross trucks after the convoy crossed the Cambodia-Thailand border town of Poipet Wednesday, the UN official said.

The Thai-Cambodian border was officially opened on June 15 for the first time since 1975.

The official said that the UN had received help from the Thai and Cambodian authorities and the United Nations Border Relief Organization (UNBRO) for the drug shipment

"We hope there will be another shipment of 10,000 kg of relief aid for the displaced Cambodians in August and one more drugs convoy will come in October this year," the UN official said.

Hun Sen Message on Beijing SNC Meeting

BK2607051191 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 25 Jul 91

["Message" from Hun Sen, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers; date not given—recorded]

[Text] My respects to all venerable monks, dear compatriots:

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to inform all of you about some issues related to my journey away from the motherland for over one week.

First of all, I wish to report to you the outcome of the Supreme National Council [SNC] meeting in Beijing. The SNC meeting there, according to the agreement reached in the Thai city of Phatthaya, was an informal conclave of the SNC members. As the meeting was informal, we informed Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and other SNC members that not all the members of the Phnom Penh side could come as they were engaged in other commitments. At this round of talks, there were only three SNC members from our side.

The meeting has achieved great historical successes, although it was informal. I would like to inform the clergy and compatriots that the issue of SNC leadership, which was outstanding since September 1990, has been resolved. This time, the issue has been completely settled with the appointment of a chairman without vice chairman. The reason is that before this I signed with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk an agreement to create a national council made of equal members from the two parties, and based on the principle of equality, the Phnom Penh party, meaning myself, had to be named as vice chairman, because at that time Samdech Norodom Sihanouk was the leader of the other party's resistance movement and government. However, in Beijing, I, apart from attending the SNC meeting there, had separate talks with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, and we agreed that the samdech be named as the SNC chairman. And upon his appointment as the chairman, the samdech agreed to step down from every position he held on the other side and to, from now on, remain neutral, acting as conciliator. This means that Samdech Norodom Sihanouk no longer belongs to any faction or political party. So there was no need to request the appointment of a vice chairman as the samdech has already resigned from the tripartite government. As a result, a joint communique was issued by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and myself on this issue. The samdech also stressed that henceforth he will stand neutral, acting as a conciliator without belonging to any faction or political party even during the elections of a constituent assembly. That being the case, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk will not participate in general elections to choose the constituent assembly as he wants to be neutral without supporting or opposing any faction. The samdech has decided to only participate in elections to choose the president or head of state. This is to provide the samdech with limitless possibilities to carry out his task to achieve a national reconciliation and reconstruction at present and in the long-term and to allow for the great opportunity to promote mutual trust among the Cambodian parties.

Moreover, I wish to inform the clergy and compatriots that thanks to his resignation as head of the other party's government and his nomination as the SNC chairman, who will remain neutral, acting as conciliator, the samdech has recognized the existence of two governments. Before, as he headed the other side's government, he did not recognize the Phnom Penh Government. But when he became neutral and the chairman of the SNC, which is composed of personalities from the two governments, he had to recognize the existence of the two governments. On this issue, the samdech made clear that prior to free elections to select a constituent assembly and to set up a new government, the two governments will continue to exist. There will be no change at all. As I already told you before my departure for Beijing, there would be no change at all with regard to the structure of the country, law, ownership, and monetary issue. On the issues of money and ownership, the samdech asked me to tell the clergy and compatriots that there will be no changes at all. Don't get confused that on the eve of the samdech's coming to Phnom Penh City, the ownership or the riel [Cambodian currency] will be changed. It is not true. This is the confirmation made by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk aboard the airplane carrying us from Beijing to Pyongyang, DPRK. By all accounts, the samdech should recognize the two governments until a national union government is elected.

The issue of the SNC leadership has greatly facilitated decisions on many other issues and created an atmosphere for the meeting to achieve immense results as stated in the final communique.

I think the clergy and compatriots have listened to the meeting's successive communiques and the final communique of the informal meeting in Beijing. I would like to highlight the following points. There was an agreement on the date of the coming SNC meeting, fixed for 26-28 August, in Bangkok; and an agreement on the dispatch of a delegation led by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk to attend the UN General Assembly [UNGA]. Included in this delegation, in alphabetical order, are His Excellency [H.E.] Hor Namhong, myself, H.E. Khieu Samphan, and H.E. Son Sann. Thus the five-member delegation will attend the coming UNGA. Agreement was also reached on the Secretariat and the SNC working group which will start working in Bangkok before the coming SNC meeting. An agreement was also reached on the request for UN assistance on supervising the ceasefire, the cessation of foreign aid, and on educating the public about mines to avoid danger resulting from these mines. Later on, through a consensus, an agreement could be reached on the program to train people on extracting and destroying mines.

Furthermore, an agreement was reached on the start of building infrastructures to receive refugees because it is an urgent issue. Now an agreement on the cease-fire and the cessation of military aid has been reached. The cease-fire is unlimited and the cessation of military aid has been affirmed by Cambodian parties. The meeting of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the Paris conference cochairmen in Beijing also supported the end of foreign military aid and appealed to Cambodia's neighboring countries to stop using their territories for transporting weapons to Cambodian parties.

There are tasks to be continued leading to the elections, in this case, the return of refugees from Thailand to Cambodia is necessary before the elections. Therefore, building infrastructures such as centers for receiving refugees, hospitals, or warehouses, and building roads to prepare for the transport of refugees are necessary and should be carried out so that immediately after an agreement is reached, the refugees can be transported before the general election.

This is what I would like to inform the clergy and compatriots about on the results of the SNC informal meeting in Beijing. True, a lot has been achieved there. Through this success, signs emerged on issues to be resolved. The situation is moving very quickly and will continue to do so to reach a final solution, namely the election of a constitutional parliament and a new government.

The second point. I would like to inform the clergy and compatriots about my stay in China. China was a good host in organizing the SNC meeting and enabling it to achieve success. I stayed in the PRC twice. The first time was from 15 to 27 [as heard] July 1991. This was on the trip to attend the SNC meeting in Beijing by myself and the delegation and after the return from the DPRK. During these two stays, the delegation and I were well-received by the Chinese Government and officials. Since the first day of my arrival in the PRC, I was well-received by local officials.

During the stay for the meeting in Beijing, although it was the first meeting, this was the (?first) time that the PRC has recognized the State of Cambodia as a party among other parties in the conflict, and a party which the PRC Government has to deal with on an equal basis as China has promised. The Chinese Government has honored this promise.

Thus our delegation received full attention from the PRC Government and other Chinese officials. During this first stay, I and all SNC members, led by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, paid a courtesy call and held talks with H.E. Prime Minister Li Peng. H.E. PRC Prime Minister Li Peng also hosted a reception to welcome the result of the SNC meeting in Beijing as well as in honor of the SNC and all its members. The delegation and I held useful talks with H.E. Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Xu Dunxin. The meeting was cordial and most useful. At this meeting, we were in agreement on many points on a solution to the Cambodian problem.

The second stay was from 22 to 24 July, on the return home from Pyongyang, North Korea. It was on the evening of 23 July, before my address to compatriots through the radio and televison, when I met with H.E. Qian Qichen, the PRC foreign minister. I also visited many places, including the Chinese people's historic places. In the two meetings—the first and second meetings with the foreign minister and deputy foreign minister and other Chinese officials—we noted that the PRC wants to solve the Cambodian problem politically and quickly. The PRC wants to have a good friendship with Cambodia. We noted that the most important point is that China wants to solve the Cambodian problem on the basis of respect for the Cambodian people's independence, sovereignty, and self-determination. This is the most important point and very significant in that we managed to achieve it with China. Chinese officials told us that this has been China's stance and China is continuing to go along this direction and supports SNC decisions, which represent Cambodia's independence, sovereignty, and unity.

The success of the SNC meeting in Beijing and the good negotiations between our delegation and all levels of Chinese officials have provided confidence for continuing the process to find a political solution to the Cambodian problem. On this point, I would like to point out to the clergy and compatriots that during the talks with H.E. PRC Prime Minister Li Peng and H.E. Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, I said that the success of the SNC meeting in Beijing has provided great confidence to the Cambodian people in solving the issue with the realization that the PRC has reached the stage of recognizing the State of Cambodia party as one among the parties of the conflict and one which should take part in solving the problem.

The Chinese side has adopted an attitude of dealing with all sides on an equal basis. It is this sense that has provided the possibility for the Cambodian people's confidence in the search for a political solution with the realization that China is striving to solve the Cambodian problem politically and that China does not want to have the upper hand through supporting one party and abandoning any other parties. This is a very good point and a very significant one in the search for a solution to the Cambodian problem. This point is also a good one for building the traditional friendship between the great Chinese people and the Cambodian people. I informed the Chinese representatives that through a solution to the Cambodian problem, and as one of the parties taking part in the settlement of the Cambodian problem, we have always wanted good friendship, which has long been in existence, between the Chinese and Cambodian people.

The third point. I would like to inform the clergy and compatriots about my visit to the DPRK and the work I continued with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk. In accordance with the agreement in Jakarta in early June 1991, I would be the guest of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk whom I would visit with in Pyongyang. Thus I am the guest of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and also of the DPRK.

The delegation and I left Beijing, PRC, for Pyongyang on a PRC special plane. This could be considered as the first official visit to a country by the SNC since the latter starts functioning. What was important was the reception for Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and other members of the delegation. Therefore, this can be considered the first visit by a high-ranking SNC delegation led by its chairman Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

During the stay in Korea, I and Samdech Norodom Sihanouk went to see H.E. Marshal President of the DPRK who hosted a reception in honor of the delegation. Samdech Norodom Sihanouk also hosted a reception to welcome me, my wife, and other members of the delegation. Korean officials and various diplomats also attended. It was a good reception which provided a good opportunity for enjoyment by representatives of Korea and the other countries there. People were very happy to see that Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and the Prime Minister of the State of Cambodia, that is myself, have good relations which can be called a contribution to carrying out an historical mission to reconcile the national conflict.

During the stay in the DPRK, I also took the opportunity to hold successive discussions with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk on the remaining issues in the process to search for a solution to the Cambodian problem. There was good mutual understanding between Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and myself, as well as with the delegation, during the discussion of all the points. We had a good understanding of one another. The points in this good mutual understanding will create a basis leading to the success of the meeting in Bangkok at the end of next month.

Along with the points relating to the discussions of remaining points of the Cambodian problem, at Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's initiative, I went along with the establishment of a commission to search for aid for the socioeconomic rehabilitation and development of the State of Cambodia. This is Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's initiative. The intention is to quickly start the socieconomic rehabiliation and development of the Cambodian society without waiting for anything else.

This issue, as stated in my message to compatriots after returning from Phathhaya, Thailand, was discussed at the SNC meeting in Phatthaya. However, the issue of development aid was not discussed; only the subject of restoration aid was raised. Still, this was objected to by some SNC members who prevented us from reaching a consensus because they did not want the immediate start of the country's rehabilitation and development. Without the SNC consensus, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk has put forward a major initiative, namely the establishment of a commission to search for aid for the socioeconomic rehabiliation and development of the State of Cambodia with the participation of the State of Cambodia's officials. This is for the purpose of finding a way out for Cambodia to quickly start its socioeconomic rehabiliation and development without waiting for a definitive solution. This should start immediately.

On this issue, if other parties want to join, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk is willing to be chairman of the commission of those parties. For the State of Cambodia's party, it is Samdech Norodom Sihanouk who is the chairman of the comission with H.E. Heng Samrin, H.E. Chea Sim, and myself as vice chairmen, with many other State of Cambodia officials participating.

This initiative has great significance. This commission has been agreed upon by myself [change of thought] between Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and myself in Pyongyang. This has also been reported to compatriots and the clergy. This commission will start working immediately. It is hoped that the international community will respond positively to the appeal by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, who is chairman of the commission, as well as the commission as a whole, so that the Cambodian people receive socioeconomic rehabilitation and development aid.

These are some parts of what I and the delegation I led achieved in Beijing and Pyongyang. I would like to thank the clergy and compatriots for paying attention to this message and hope that compatriots and the clergy, as well as all levels of state authorities, would actively contribute to bringing about peace and national reconciliation of the Cambodian problem.

Finally, I would like to wish the clergy and compatriots longevity, social standing, happiness, and enlightenment.

Politburo Endorses Hun Sen's DPRK, PRC Trips

BK2607064991 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 26 Jul 91

["Press Communique" from the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee Political Bureau; dated 26 July—read by announcer]

[Text] On 26 July, the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] Central Committee Political Bureau held a plenary session under the chairmanship of Comrade Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee, to listen to a report presented by Comrade Hun Sen, member of the KPRP Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, on the outcome of the mission conducted by the three Supreme National Council [SNC] members of the State of Cambodia in the PRC and DPRK from 16 to 24 July 1991.

The Political Bureau valued this round of SNC meetings which, although informal, have achieved great historic successes. In particular, the settlement of the SNC leadership issue has promoted mutual trust among the Cambodian parties, thereby creating conditions leading to a compromise on a number of issues.

On the issue [words indistinct], the Political Bureau expressed its satisfaction in and support for the decision of the samdech [Norodom Sihanouk] to step down from all positions within the other side and to stand neutral without belonging to any faction or political party in order to carry out his task as the SNC chairman to achieve national reconciliation at present and in the long-term future.

The Political Bureau pledged that it will do everything it can to create favorable conditions for the samdech to carry out its supreme mission.

The Political Bureau profoundly and sincerely thanked the Chinese Government and officials at all levels as well as the great people of China for their cordial assistance, enabling the State of Cambodia's SNC delegation to successfully carry out its task at ease during its stay in the PRC. The Political Bureau highly valued China's stance on recognizing and treating the party of the State of Cambodia on an equal footing with other Cambodian parties. This created mutual trust which constitutes a fine condition for the conflicting Cambodian parties to arrive at a compromise. Moreover, the Political Bureau deeply thanked China and highly valued China's goodwill stance to settle the Cambodian problem via a political solution at the earliest date based on the respect for independence, sovereignty, and right to self-determination of the Cambodian people. The Political Bureau also highly esteemed China's good intention to have good relations with Cambodia.

For the State of Cambodia's part, the Political Bureau pledged to do everything to rebuild a new unified Cambodia—with independence, peace, sovereignty, neutrality, and nonalignment—which has good relations with the PRC as well as with all the countries in the world without discriminating against any social or political system.

In sum, the Political Bureau concluded that the presence of the State of Cambodia's delegation in the PRC, although it was a first, was an historic presence, as the PRC had conducted a high-level direct contact with the State of Cambodia, which is one of the Cambodian parties within the SNC.

The Political Bureau profoundly and sincerely thanked the heroic DPRK Government and people for their warm reception granted and fine understanding expressed to the State of Cambodia's SNC delegation during its visit with Samdech Sihanouk and as guest of the DPRK.

The Political Bureau also highly valued and deeply thanked the Vietnamese and Lao parties, governments, and peoples for their multifarious assistance during the transit of the State of Cambodia's SNC delegation within this historic mission. The Political Bureau applauded and endorsed the significance of the talks between the State of Cambodia's SNC delegation and the Vietnamese party and state leaders on 24 July 1991 and considered this an important contribution to the search for a peaceful solution for Cambodia.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 26 July 1991

Comparison of Final Beijing SNC Communique

CM1807065791

Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian at 0430 GMT on 18 July carried an announcer-read 9.5- minute communique of the informal meeting of the Cambodian Supreme National Council in Beijing.

This Phnom Penh radio version has been compared with and found to be identical to the referent VODK Cambodian version, appearing on pages 31-32 of the 18 July edition of the East Asia DAILY REPORT, except for the following variations:

Page 31, column one, paragraph four, first sentence, the Phnom Penh radio version reads: ...Sihanouk as chairman. (Dropping sentences praising Sihanouk)

Column two, sixth full paragraph, first sentence, make read: ...Samdech Norodom Sihanouk reaffirming the acceptance of the 28 August 1990 framework document of the five major powers, and requesting the... (Providing variant version)

Column two, ninth full paragraph, only sentence, make read: ...government guest house, and the issue... (Eliminating part of the sentence and providing a variant version)

Column two, tenth full paragraph, only sentence, make read: ...of Cambodian refugees and war refugees; set up educational... (Providing additional words "war refugees")

Page 32, column one, third full paragraph, only sentence, make read: ...opportunity to reaffirm gratitute to the UN Security Council five permanent members, the PICC cochairmen, and all friendly... (Providing variant version)

Indonesia

Foreign Minister Remarks on Cambodia Settlement

BK2507095991 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0737 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Jakarta, July 25 (OANA-ANTARA) - Indonesian Foreign Minister [FM] Ali Alatas was of the view that the recent meetings of the Cambodian Supreme National Council (SNC) at Phatthaya, Thailand and in Beijing, PRC had provided an additional momentum towards a comprehensive settlement of the Cambodian conflict.

The fact that the SNC can function under the presidency of Prince Norodom Sihanouk is encouraging and the ASEAN countries from their side support the efforts which had so far been conducted by the SNC, FM Alatas told the press at Jakarta Sukarno-Hatta Airport on his arrival from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Wednesday night.

FM Alatas was in Kuala Lumpur to attend the 24th annual meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers from July 18 through 20 and the dialogues between the ASEAN countries and their trade partners consisting of Australia, New Zealand, the European Community (EC), Japan, the USA, Canada, and South Korea from July 22 through 24, 1991.

The recent meetings of the 12 members of the SNC at Phatthaya from June 24 through 26 and in Beijing from July 16 and 17, 1991, were formal meetings of the SNC in which the SNC had agreed to elect Sihanouk as president of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia, Alatas said. ASEAN in its statement, among other things, expressed the hope that the process which was currently developing among the SNC members would be conducive to focus their discussions towards finding a solution on still controversial problems in the proposed agreement by the cochairmen of the PCC [Paris Conference on Cambodia], he added.

Because of its importance, ASEAN supports the current process among the SNC members and has decided to give a positive response to the invitation of Prince Sihanouk to accredit an ASEAN representative to the SNC after the council has established its headquarters in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, the Indonesian foreign minister asserted.

When in Kuala Lumpur, FM Alatas told reporters that three quarters of the way towards a conprehensive solution of the Cambodian problem had been passed, but the remaining one quarter would still be full of obstacles and sensitive issues.

Suharto Receives Message From Malaysia's Mahathir

BK2607092691 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] President Suharto has received a written message from Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed. The message was conveyed by Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba accompanied by Foreign Minister Ali Alatas to Mr. Suharto at the latter's residence on Cendana Street, Jakarta this morning.

Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told newsmen that President Suharto would first study the Malaysian prime minister's special message. He added that the results of the annual ASEAN meeting and the establishment of the Indonesian-Malaysian joint commission were discussed during the brief meeting. The joint commission is expected to amicably settle outstanding problems such as their dispute over Sipadan and Ligitan Islands.

Minister Ali Alatas said that Indonesia and Malaysia as neighboring countries would be able to amicably settle outstanding problems one by one through the joint commission.

Alatas on Malaysian Ties

BK2607105391 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0934 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Jakarta, July 26 (OANA-ANTARA)—Indonesia and Malaysia need to solve their common problems in order not to let them become a source of conflicts in the future, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said here Friday.

Alatas, after accompanying President Suharto during a meeting with Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba, told reporters that the Malaysian envoy handed over a personal letter from Malaysia's prime minister, Mahathir Mohamed, to the president.

The minister said he had not yet been informed of the content of the letter, but adding that both leaders discussed the results of ASEAN's annual ministerial meeting and the formation of an Indonesian-Malaysian committee in Kuala Lumpur recently.

One of the problems that should be solved immediately by both countries is the issue of the Sipadan and Ligitan Islands off the coast of East Kalimantan, Minister Alatas said.

Malaysia and Indonesia have overlapping sovereignty claim over the two islands.

Because Indonesia and Malaysia have so far maintained very close relations with full understanding, there are a number of common problems which are not solved soon, the minister said, adding that with the establishment of the joint committee, it is now the right time for the problems to be solved one by one.

In reply to a reporter's question, the Malaysian envoy said that he was not in the position to reveal the contents of the letter, describing his meeting with the president as a meeting between a younger brother with his older brother.

Alatas said some time ago that the issue of the Sipadan and Ligitan Islands had come to the surface as a result of a different attitude between both nations towards the way in which the two islands would be determined, whether they are located in Indonesian or in Malaysian territory.

Indonesia has requested Malaysia to maintain the status quo of the two islands as long as a solution for them has not yet been found out. Malaysia has, however, reportedly built a number of tourism facilities on the island.

Further on Singapore President's Visit

Meets Suharto

BK2507093591 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0700 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] President Suharto and Singapore President Wee Kim Wee held talks which lasted about two hours at Jakarta's Merdeka Palace this morning. They discussed bilateral, regional, and international issues. Simultaneously, the Indonesian and Singapore delegations were meeting at another room of Merdeka Palace.

Minister and State Secretary Murdiono told newsmen later that the talks proceeded in an atmosphere of mutual understanding.

[Begin Murdiono recording] As we know, bilateral relations are very good and based on mutual understanding. There have been no fundamental problems between the two sides. Of course, the current cooperation, especially in the development of the triangle linking Johor, Singapore, and Batam together [break in transmission] future cooperation. Touching on regional and international issues, the two presidents exchanged views on the future of ASEAN, developments in Europe, and the future of the Asia-Pacific region. The president told the Singapore president that it would be very logical for a future single Europe to give attention to their neighbors in Eastern Europe. Even though the Europeans have said that their attention to developing nations, including ASEAN will not diminish, we should concentrate on economic cooperation among the ASEAN countries. I think that this has become even more important because the next century is expected to be the Asia-Pacific age. Thus, intra-ASEAN cooperation should be further enhanced to welcome the Asia-Pacific age. [end recording]

According to Minister and State Secretary Murdiono, the Singapore president praised the Indonesian Government for adopting a foreign policy that rules out any territorial ambitions.

Commentary on Wee Kim Wee Remarks

BK2607061191 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] During a meeting with President Suharto at Merdeka Palace yesterday, Singapore President Wee Kim Wee noted Indonesia's consistent foreign policy. He noted that Indonesia has no territorial ambitions nor has it any intention of launching an aggression against another country. As explained by Minister and State Secretary Murdiono to newsmen following the meeting, President Wee Kim Wee said that the consistent policy has been strongly reflected in Indonesia's role in the development of ASEAN.

What the Singapore president said was correct. Like the foreign policies of most Asian and African nations, Indonesia's foreign policy has been fully inspired by its initial struggle for national independence and its subsequent struggle to give concrete substance to this independence. One of the main features of Indonesia's foreign policy is anticolonialism. This is a facet of the Indonesian people's nationalism. This nationalism is a manifestation of the strong desire to achieve and defend national independence on the basis of national identity and to achieve social justice.

The foundation of Indonesia's foreign policy is clearly embodied in the first line of the preamble of the 1945 Constitution. It reads as follows: Indeed, independence is the right of all nations. Thus, colonialism must be wiped from the face of the earth because it is opposed to humanity and justice. As Indonesian nationalism was rooted in the struggle to gain freedom from colonialism, it has inspired a spirit of unity against the colonialists. The Indonesian people's nationalism strongly oriented toward international solidarity has given rise to their tolerance toward the philosophies or sociopolitical systems of other nations.

Based on this outlook, it is clear that the Indonesian people want to coexist peacefully with other peoples in the world. Moreoever, Indonesia will always support and play an active role in any activities aimed at granting independence to peoples who remain in the shackles of colonialism or who are torn apart by disputes. Indonesia has consistently adopted and is determined to continue this policy as part of its effort to help maintain world order based on independence, eternal peace, and social justice.

Red Cross Visits Prisoners in Aceh Province

BK2607010291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1644 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Geneva, July 25 (AFP)—An International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegation has visited prisoners accused of security offences in Indonesia's Aceh Province for the first time, an ICRC spokesman said Thursday.

The prisoners, known as GPK's, are not affiliated to any established opposition party in Indonesia, said the spokesman.

The ICRC delegates visited four detention centers in the far north Aceh Province and in the village of Medan, he said.

No figure on the number of prisoners was given by the Red Cross spokesman, but he said that it would be published when the mission in Indonesia, which started on July 5, was completed.

The humanitarian organization demanded to be allowed to meet prisoners on a one-to-one basis, or only with the presence of its own interpreter, the ICRC spokesman added.

The predominantly Moslem Province of Aceh has been the scene of a spate of anti-government attacks over the past two months, claimed by the separatist Aceh Sumatra National Liberation Front (ASNLF).

An ASNLF statement on July 21 dismissed an Indonesian Government claim that security offences have been committed.

The front was fighting for the freedom of Aceh Sumatra, it said.

Dissident Leader Remarks on Government Dispute

BK2107150091 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 1244 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Jakarta, 21/7 (ANTARA) - Ali Sadikin [leader of a dissident group known as the Petition of 50] (?says the group) prefers settling its dispute with the government through consultations rather than referring the matter to court. The group saw the petition [a 1980 political statement which the government said had offended President Suharto] as a political matter rather than a legal one.

"Nonetheless, we are prepared for the possibility of suing the government through the State Administration Court for [words indistinct] as suggested by Sudomo, coordinating minister for politics and security," he said at a news conference at his home on 2, Borobudur Street, Jakarta on Sunday afternoon.

Present during the occasion were about 25 domestic and foreign newsmen. The host was accompanied by Slamet Bratanata [former mining minister] and [words indistinct]. The 2-hour news conference, where tea was served, was called in response to the written press statement dated 19 July 1991 by the coordinating minister for politcs and security.

In the statement, Sudomo urged Ali Sadikin and his friends to sue the government in court or apologize to the president and make a written pledge not to conduct political activities, including making statements if they travel oversaes."

Ali Sadikin, who wore a batik shirt and [words indistinct] trouser, reiterated his desire to meet President Suharto [words indistinct].

"We want to meet Mr. Suharto [words indistinct]. Thus, we have asked Kharis Suhud, chairman of the House of Representatives and the People's Consultative Assembly, to act as mediator," the former Jakarta governor said. [passage omitted]

Laos

Thai Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

BK2507131691 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] At the invitation of Souban Salitthilat, deputy foreign affairs minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] and cochairman of the Lao-Thai Border Committee, Wichian Watthanakun, deputy foreign minister of the Kingdom of Thailand and cochairman of the Thai-Lao Border Committee, and his entourage arrived in Vientiane at noon today to pay an official visit to the LPDR. During its stay in the LPDR from 25 to 28 July, the Thai delegation will consult with the Lao side on the situation along the Lao-Thai border, especially the area linking Laos' Boten District and Thailand's Chatrakan District, to smoothly resolve the remaining border dispute in accordance with the findings in a joint survey of the area conducted on 12 December 1990 by the technical border subcommittees of the two sides.

Peace Committee Extends Sympathy to PRC

BK2307131791 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] Last week, the Lao Committe for World Peace and Solidarity and Friendship with Other Nations sent two messages of sympathy to the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with other Peoples and the Peace Organization for Disarmament in Beijing.

In the two messages, the Lao peace committee extended its sympathy to the Chinese counterparts upon hearing reports that in recent weeks, many provinces in the PRC have been severely ravaged by floods which have caused heavy losses to the economic and production foundations as well as the lives and property of the Chinese people. Through these organizations, the Lao peace committee conveyed its sympathy to the Chinese people, especially those affected by the floods. It expressed the belief that the Chinese party, state, and people would be able to overcome these difficulties.

Earlier on 13 July, Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, also sent a message to sympathy to PRC Premier Li Peng.

Australian Broadcasting Firm Presents Gift

BK2507105291 Vientiane KPL in English 0921 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Vientiane, July 25 (KPL)—A consignment of 357 u-matic videotapes, worth approximately 2.5 million kip, a gift from the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), was handed over here on July 25, 1991 to Lao National Radio and Television.

The gifts were presented by Mr. Michael Mann, Australian ambassador to Laos, to Mr. Bounteng Vongsai, acting minister of information and culture. A 2-member technical delegation from ABC, currently on a fact-finding visit here, was also present.

ABC television and Lao TV have fostered a friendly relationship of cooperation, especially since the visit to Laos of ABC managing director, Mr. David Hill, in April 1991.

The Australian ambassador, Mr. Mann, said the two ABC personnel, who had just visited Vietnam, were visiting Vientiane to make a technical assessment of the Lao television's facilities and to develop proposals for the overall training requirements of Lao National Radio and Television.

Mr. Mann said a further 100 videotapes donated by ABC television would be presented to the television station in Savannakhet Province.

Memorandum Signed on Cooperation With SRV

BK2607045891 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Recently, the leading committees of Laos' Xieng Khouang Province and its sister Nghe Tinh Province of the SRV jointly signed a memorandum, as agreed upon, on the strengthening of cooperation and the exchange of experience in the leadership work between the two provinces in the years to come, particularly during the period of implementation of the restructuring line of each country.

The memorandum has been agreed upon between the two sides following the visit to Xieng Khouang Province by a delegation of the Nghe Tinh provincial leading committee from 20 to 22 July.

Xieng Khouang and Nghe Tinh Provinces have maintained sisterly relations for many years. They have closely cooperated and assisted each other in carrying out socioeconomic development work.

'Victory' Over 'Enemy' at Phathi Recalled

BK2507125791 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Feature: "Combat operation to dismantle the bandit nests at Phathi]

[Summary] "Phathi is a high cliff mountain of strategic significance in military operations. It is located 33 kilometers west of Sam Neua District, Houa Phan Province, next to the borders of Xieng Khouang and Luang Prabang Provinces. The area is about 8 km long and 3 km wide and is 1,687 meters above mean sea level. Most of the local residents are of Hmong ethnic origin."

Due to the strategic importance of the mountain, the neocolonialist imperialists and their henchmen eventually sent some 2,500 Vang Pao special forces to seize that area in order to set up bandit nests. They also installed radar equipment on the top of the mountain to direct air raids against northern Laos. Upon arriving in the area, the enemy commandos immediately herded some 7,000 local residents into detention camps. They also coerced a large number of young men to serve in their bandit units.

In August 1967, the Lao People's Liberation Army and people in Houa Phan Province began launching operations to dismantle the "bandit nests of the United States and Vang Pao" in the area. They managed to gradually wipe out one enemy position after another and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy troops in the Phou Kasao, Phou Hin Hao, and other areas.

"To extricate themselves from heavy losses, the neocolonialist imperialists and their henchmen sent war planes to strafe and bomb the area day and night." Nonetheless, our forces put up stiff resistance against the enemy and continued to route the bandits from the Phou Dendin, Phou Chomto, Phou Pong, Houai Sou, and other areas. By the middle of January 1968, an estimated 16 battalions of enemy forces were mobilized and deployed in the Phathi stronghold.

"On 18 March 1968, employing skillful tactics, our army and people heroically and resolutely launched violent attacks against the last nests of the enemy commandos right in the heart of the Phathi mountain, including their radar installions which had directed air raids and artillery shellings against the northern region. On that day, our army and people triumphantly drove the enemy from the area.

"From late August 1967 to 18 March 1968, our Army and people put out of action 1,313 enemy soldiers, seized 250 fire arms of various types, shot down 13 planes, destroyed one radar installation, seized a large quantity of war materiel, and liberated several thousand people."

The Phathi victory constituted one of the most outstanding feats of arms ever won by our army and people during the period of national liberation struggle.

Collection of Data on Drought Completed

BK2507132491 Vientiane KPL in English 0911 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Vientiane, July 25 (KPL)—The data collection to curb drought and prepare for monsoon rice crop in Khammouane and Savannakhet Provinces by technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is basically completed.

According to the figures and information collected, rice transplantation in Khammouane has covered only 80 percent of the entire rice fields in the locality. Meanwhile, only 16 percent of the total 84,641-hectare rice field have been transplanted.

A report from the Meteorology and Hydrology Department notes that the dry spell will prolong in the central and southern parts of the country.

Another report from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry discloses that seven drought-stricken provinces can have only 21.26 percent of the total 292,698-ha [hectare] rice field transplanted.

In particular, 27 percent of the total 42,334 ha rice field in Vientiane Prefecture have so far been transplanted, 16.61 percent of 84,641 ha in Savannakhet, 3.6 percent of 32,404 ha in Saravane—most severely stricken province, 40 percent of 72,104 ha in Champassak, 35 percent of 35,357 ha in Vientiane Province, 26.25 percent of 12,858 ha in Sayaboury, 80 percent of 13,000 ha in Oudomsai.

On the other hand, the agriculture and forestry service of Luang Prabang Province, on July 22 held a meeting to assess the damage to rice cultivation by drought in the locality and its consequences, and dispatching 47 personnel to nine districts in the province to lead anti-drought campaigns. At present, 4,000 ha highland cultivation and 40 per cent of the rice fields in this northern province are being ravaged by pests and come under the threat of drought.

In Vientiane Prefecture, the campaign is being launched widely in various forms: weir building and repair, irrigation canal dredging.

So far, nine provinces throughout the country have been declared drought-stricken.

Philippines

Aquino: Senate Decision on Bases Binding

HK2607122191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1211 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Manila, Jul 26 (AFP)—President Corazon Aquino, facing possible rejection of a new military bases treaty with the United States, said here Friday that the Philippine Senate's decision on the agreement would be final and binding.

"The duty of the Senate is to decide whether a treaty, once entered into by the executive department, should be ratified or rejected," she said in a statement after a bloc of senators threatened to dump the agreement.

"The decision of the Senate on this matter is final and binds the whole government and the country as well," she added.

U.S. and Philippine negotiators are hammering out the final details of the treaty after announcing agreement on major points: a U.S. withdrawal from Clark Air Base by September 1992, and a new 10-year lease on Subic Naval Base.

Senators dissatisfied with the length of the lease and the compensation level of 200 million dollars a year, less than half that paid by Washington for the two bases under the current agreement, have threatened to scuttle the treaty.

The Philippine Constitution requires that two-thirds of the country's 23-member senate must ratify any treaty. At least a dozen senators—three more than required to block ratification—have signified plans to oppose any treaty extending the bases' stay.

Recent surveys showed strong support for the U.S. military presence among the Filipino public, but Mrs. Aquino has said the bases treaty can only be submitted to a popular vote after the Senate acts on it.

A Senate rejection would thus preclude any plebiscite.

Analysts say some of the senators who have declared opposition to a new bases treaty could change sides at the last minute, depending on Mrs. Aquino's efforts to change their minds.

The new treaty is expected to be presented for Senate ratification by August or September, when the current bases pact expires.

Manglapus, Salonga on Treaty

HK2607031391 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus has opposed the call made by members of the Senate for renewed negotiations on the U.S. bases treaty. He emphasized that a renegotiation is not needed because the treaty already deals with the issues of compensation and duration. Manglapus said he is prepared to persuade the Senate to ratify the new bases treaty. The secretary said the agreement between both countries has now been finalized on the issues of the extension of the bases treaty; however, he said talks by the technical committee are continuing on several other issues.

Manglapus made it clear that the negotiations will not be completed until the new treaty is signed.

Meanwhile, Senate President Jovita Salonga has warned that there may be no new bases treaty between the Philippines and the United States if the latter refuses to accede to the Philippine desire to hold renewed negotiations to amend and discuss some provisions which the congressional upper house considers unacceptable.

Salonga stressed that if the U.S. Government does not agree to open new negotiations, the Senate will likewise not press for new talks. He said both sides must be satisfied with the new bases treaty—unlike the draft submitted to the Senate, which he termed strictly one-sided, as compensation by the United States for use of Subic Naval Base is too low.

The Senate president warned that if the new bases treaty is not ratified, the Ramos-Rusk Agreement may possibly be resorted to, and this would call for the bases to remain for 1 more year—until 1992—before they are dismantled.

Meanwhile Senator John Osmena is proposing an interim bases treaty to last only 2 years. He said this is the only solution under present circumstances. He said that in 2 years' time the Philippines and the United States will have had sufficient time to agree on a new treaty. Osmena added that under this plan, the agreed $360 million would be the bases rental for 1991, and $203 million for next year, after which talks can be resumed for new provisions and a compensation package. Osmena's proposal aims to avert a possible crisis for the government, should the Senate turn down the 10-year extension and the $203 million which has been agreed on by both sides. If a crisis results from failure to reach agreement on the new treaty, he said, trade relations between the Philippines and the United States will be affected.

Meanwhile, there may not be sufficient time to hold a plebiscite on the new bases treaty. This was stated by House Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. after Congress consulted the Commission on Elections [Comelec]. During a meeting yesterday in Malacanang between President Aquino and congressmen, Speaker Mitra informed the chief executive that they would issue a resolution against the new bases agreement. Comelec has said it is pressed for time, is short of funds, and is unsure of its legal authority over a plebiscite to rule on a new bases treaty to replace the present agreement, which expires on 16 September this year.

Japanese Spokesman in Manila; Comments on Burma

OW2507143491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1409 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Manila, July 25 KYODO—Japan "is very much concerned" about the state of human rights and democracy in Myanmar [Burma], a Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman accompanying Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said Thursday.

The Japanese Government wants to encourage democracy in Myanmar, spokesman Makoto Yamanaka told reporters.

Nakayama, who has just attended the post-ministerial meeting between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its dialogue partners in Kuala Lumpur, is in Manila on a two-day visit.

The European Community has pressed ASEAN to put pressure on Myanmar's military rulers to respect human rights and hand over power to officials democratically elected last year.

During the meeting in Kuala Lumpur, ASEAN decided to send a mission to Myanmar headed by Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus.

"We are very much concerned about the state of democracy and human rights there," Yamanaka said.

He also indicated, meanwhile, that Japan supports the U.S. stand that the Soviet Union should for the time being be excluded from any regional security talks.

He said that Nakayama proposed during the meeting in Kuala Lumpur the enlargement of discussions on security among the Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) members.

"What we want to see is that the current members of the PMC discuss the matter more extensively," Yamanaka added.

Foreign Ministry Opposes Taiwan Fisheries Treaty

HK2407102191 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 24 Jul 91

[By Rey Arquiza]

[Text] The Department of Foreign Affairs recommendld the nullification of a fisheries agreement recently signed by the Philippine Government and Taiwan. A memorandum signed by Foreign Affairs Under Secretary Pablo Suarez was presented to Malacanang. The report states that the agreement is a violation of the "one China" policy. If the fisheries agreement is canceled, it will signify the Philippines' intention to honor its agreement with the People's Republic of China regarding the "one China" policy. According to the agreement, the Taiwan Government will give the Philippines five fishing vessels and will help to build ports in Batanes and Cagayan, in exchange for giving transit privileges to Taiwan to pass through Philippine waters toward the South China Sea.

Aquino Limits Executive Branch Undersecretaries

HK2507050591 Quezon City MALAYA in English 25 Jul 91 pp 1, 9

[By Chit Estella]

[Text] President Aquino yesterday ordered the layoff, effective at the start of this month, of excess department undersecretaries and assistant secretaries.

She said there should at most be three undersecretaries and assistant secretaries in a department.

The directive, which will be contained in a memorandum to be issued soon will affect 17 undersecretaries and 51 assistant secretaries in nearly all departments. Exempted from the order are the Departments of Health, of Public Works and Highways, and of Education, Culture and Sports.

Budget Secretary Guillermo Carague, who met with Mrs. Aquino yesterday afternoon, said the undersecretaries and assistant secretaries to be laid off will not be re-hired even as consultants.

"That will be violating the spirit of the law. Talagang [indeed] we will lay them off," he said.

Although the government is expected to save only about P15.4 million [Philippine pesos] a year in the removal of these excess officials, its action is expected to serve as an example to other government agencies with top-heavy bureaucracy.

There are 89 undersecretaries and about 120 assistant secretaries in the 21 executive departments, including the Office of the President.

Aquino Declares Cagayan Valley Calamity Area

HK2407053791 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 24 Jul 91 p 6

[By Elizabeth Perez]

[Text] President Aquino has declared four provinces in the Cagayan Valley as calamity areas following the massive damages wrought by a six-month-old drought there.

The President last July 12 issued Proclamation 756 placing the provinces of Isabela, Cagayan, Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino under state of calamity.

Close to P1 billion [Philippine peso] worth of corn crops have been destroyed in the said provinces, where a lingering dry spell continues to afflict some 78,000 hectares of farmlands.

In a related development, the Department of Agriculture [DA] said it will need at least P32 million to rehabilitate the Cagayan Valley farms that have been affected by the drought.

DA Undersecretary Apolonio Bautista said, however, that some of the corn farms are now on the way to recovery following the considerable rains brought by tropical depression Herming last Monday.

"Puweda na sigurong magtanim ng mais dahil umulan na," [Perhaps we can plant corn now that is raining.] Bautista said.

Public storm signal no. 2 was raised over most of Northern Luzon, including the four Cagayan Valley provinces, when the storm made a landfall yesterday.

Bautista reiterate that there will be no corn importations, adding that whatever shortfall may result from the Cagayan drought can be easily filled in by the corn-producing provinces in Mindanao.

Cagayan Valley is the second biggest corn-producing region in the country, after Northern Mindanao.

Cagayan Valley's corn production is particularly crucial to poultry farms and feed millers based in Luzon. To ensure adequate foreign supply to these firms, the DA has decided to put up for public bidding some 10,000 mts [metric tons] of high-grade corn that were supposed to be exported this year.

4 Senators Oppose Defense Secretary's Appointment

HK2507053191 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 25 Jul 91 p 3

[By Jose H. Macaspac]

[Text] Four senators yesterday said they would vigorously oppose the appointment of former AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa as defense chief, compounding President Aquino's dilemma in coming up with a suitable replacement for resigned Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, one who is acceptable to members of Congress.

On the other hand, De Villa told newsmen that the snowballing opposition to his appointment could be politically motivated as evidenced by the fact that the main resistance comes from the House members of the Commission on Appointments (CA).

The lawmakers—Senator Ernesto Maceda, Aquilino Pimentel Jr., John Osmena, and Juan Ponce Enrile—believe that De Villa, who retired last year as Armed Forces chief, will use the defense department to propel the presidential bid of Ramos, his former boss.

Maceda proposed that De Villa's designation be immediately rejected by the CA.

By doing so, there would be no risk of De Villa being reappointed when Congress goes on recess, he said.

Maceda feared that Malacanang would continue to reappoint De Villa to the post until the term of the Aquino administration expires in 1992.

Maceda added that the Palace could do this although it would be a very clear contradiction of the position taken by a majority of the CA members on the De Villa appointment.

He said Enrile and Osmena had already assured him that they too would vote against the appointment.

For his part, Pimentel, head and the most likely presidential candidate of the Partido Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas Ng Bayan (PDP-Laban) in the coming polls, argued that many of the lawmakers felt De Villa could never be impartial during the elections.

"We fear that he (De Villa) will work for the candidacy of presidential aspirant Ramos considering his close association with Ramos when the two of them were in the defense establishment," Pimentel said.

The 12-man House contingent in the CA announced Tuesday they were against De Villa's appointment.

House Speaker Protempore Antonio Cuenco said House members would block the appointment because "it runs counter to the spirit of the Constitution on civilian supremacy over the military.

The House members, Cuenco added, said Mrs. Aquino should have appointed a more qualified civilian.

De Villa, in an interview, complained that he was "caught between political forces fighting for positions."

He said he could not understand the lawmakers' resistance to his appointment considering that he would be placed in a post with which he was familiar.

De Villa admitted that the defense post was a political position and as such appointments to the posts, would be decided upon by politicians.

But he said he would ensure that the military remained apolitical.

However, this would be proven only when the elections come, he said.

Senator Supports Special Army Training Program

HK2407060691 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 24 Jul 91 p 12

[By Aris R. Ilagan]

[Text] Sen. Ernesto Maceda, chairman of the Senate Committee on National Defense, batted yesterday for an intensified training program for Army Special Operations Teams (SOT) to ensure the victory of the government over the communist rebels by next year.

During an inspection at the Army Training Command (Tracom) in Fort Bonifacio, Makati, Maceda cited the need for government troopers who can "relate harmoniously" with the residents to get their support in flushing out the New People's Army (NPA) rebels in their barangays.

The SOT is a component of the military's Oplan Lambat Bitag, a counter-insurgency program which involves clearing a barangay of communist rebels, holding the area, consolidating the displaced residents, and later implementing development projects.

"In this way military action has been effectively used against hardcore rebels while bringing protection to the civilians in the community," Col. Angelino Medina, commanding officer of the Army Tracom.

The SOT group, usually an Army squad with at least seven troopers, implements a step-by-step process in the civil-military and psychological aspects of operations aimed at winning back the loyalty and support of the people.

Upon learning that the military establishment does not have enough qualified field commanders to occupy key operational positions, Maceda also suggested the forming of a "pool of commanders" where competent officers can be pulled out anytime to assume positions left by their colleagues who are either on official leave or undergo advanced military training.

Convictions of Ninoy Aquino's Killers Upheld

HK2407114691 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Text] The Supreme Court confirmed a lower court's verdict of lifetime imprisonment for the 16 soldiers implicated in the murder of former Senator Benigno Aquino Jr.

Fifteen of those convicted appealed to the Supreme Court to reverse the decision of a lower court last September. One of the accused, Air Force General Luther Custodio died of cancer a few months after conviction.

The former senator and husband of President Aquino was killed at the airport when he arrived from exile in the United States.

Police Say Communist Propaganda Offensive Failure

HK2307115191 Davao City PEOPLE'S DAILY FORUM in English 17 Jul 91 p 3

[Text] Reports that communist rebels and their front organizations will launch demonstrations and mass actions to exploit the current calamities and sow more discontent for established order and government will not succeed.

This was the consensus of citizens volunteer organizations and communities here following the disclosure made by the Regional Police command that the communists are preparing for an all-out offensive.

Police Spokesman Pedro Camba, Jr., in a statement made to media this week said that the volatile issues of high prices and military abuses will be the rallying point of the rebels.

"I do not think the communists will be able to generate support for their activities at this time," Raul Torrejos, a resident of Maa, this city said. He said that Maa, as an example, had suffered when the NPA [New People's Army] dominated the area. Now, the residents will fight to the end and will not support any activity related to the communists, even though how enticing they will be in the issues that they will present, he added.

The regional police command also confirmed reports that the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]/NPA have infiltrated the labor sector in their agenda. Attempts to get the students to maximize radicalism in the campus no longer succeed because the youth have learned the bitter lessons of the past, it was pointed out.

The regional command under Brig. Gen. Manual Salimbangon has been monitoring closely the activities of the communist fronts and their organs here, it was pointed out.

Davao Del Norte Communist Group Dismantled

HK2307114991 Davao City THE MINDANAO DAILY MIRROR in English 16 Jul 91 pp 1, 15

[By PCW]

[Text] Tagum, Davao del Norte—A shadow government of communist rebels in Davao del Norte was dismantled when a set of barangay officials who were trained and appointed by the New People's Army (NPA) rebels surrendered to the government, police authorities said here yesterday.

Superintendent Ricardo de Leon, Davao del Norte PNP [Philippine National Police] director said the communist shadow government of barangay New Cortez in New Cirella town was organized by the NPA led by Virginia Paican alias "Ka [Comrade] Yutsie."

De Leon said the New Cortez barangay government was known as "Komite Sa balangay" (Kombal) [Barangay Committee] composed of 16 members headed by chairman Marcelo alias "Ka Bulilit."

Other committee officers are Alejandro Baquero alias "Ka Ali", vice chairman; Carmelta Lacia alias "Ka Moding", secretary and finance officer, Eleuterio Batingal alias "Ka Leo:, health officer and Cirilo Bibal, alias "Ka Jing"; Filomeno Quintoriano, alias "Ka Rey"; Elicidad Tambis, alias "Ka Rosie"; Rodrigo Tungo, alias "Ka Bangsi"; Eriberto Ocay, alias "Ka Scarface"; Leodegario Baquere, alias "Ka Rey"; Cosme Munta, alias "Ka Blanco"; Francisco Lacia, alias "Ka Eki"; Diosdado Batingal, alias "Ka Nene"; Diosdado Udo, alias "Ka Talisiy"; Alfonso Amigo, alias "Ka Vir" and Anacleto Hangad," alias "Ka Cleto", messenger/courier.

The surrenderers took their oath of allegiance before the police after surrender rites administered by Chief Inspector Dominador Cruda.

The dismantling of the communist shadow government of barangay New Cortez was an aftermath of the massacre of 11 civilians of the barangay and the killing and surrender of 6 ranking NPA commanders of the province, he said.

Meanwhile, unidentified skeletal remains and 5 assorted handguns were dug and recovered separately by the police in barangay La Pilipina the other day.

The skeletal remains was a suspected military informer believed salvaged by the NPA rebels sometime in 1985. The 5 handguns and the skeletons were brought to the PNP provincial headquarters.

The recovery team was headed by Senior Inspector Eduardo Reyes of the 432nd PNP field force and assisted by La Pilipina barangay officials headed by Barangay Captain Sabina Catcha.

Thailand

Ambassador Calls for More Coherent Policy

BK2607010791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Jul 91 pp B1, B22

[Text] The Thai ambassador to Washington has urged the government to devise a clear overall policy towards the United States on all fronts in a bid to resolve pending bilateral economic and political issues in the changing context of global politics and economics.

At the height of the bilateral disputes between Bangkok and Washington, Phiraphong Kasemsi, the Thai ambassador, expressed serious concern over the lack of a clear-cut policy on Thai-US relations.

Describing Thailand's attempt to restore bilateral relations with Washington as "compartmentalized and ad hoc-like", the ambassador said the government could not expect to do away with one problem without facing consequences in other areas, as is the case now.

At least 11 economic and political issues are pending between the two countries, ranging from trade sanctions on Thai wildlife products and threats of possible trade retaliation over inadequate intellectual property protection in Thailand, to alleged forced repatriation of Hmong refugees and Burmese students by the Thai government.

These issues are interrelated, he said, and the government would need a coherent and unified policy to settle them in an acceptable manner.

Immediately after the United States listed Thailand as one of three priority foreign countries which are likely to face trade sanctions because of their inadequate intellectual property protection, the Thai government came up with a suggestion that the overall Thai-US bilateral relations should come under review. The issue, however, soon subsided.

Phiraphong was in Bangkok for a two-day visit after attending the annual meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers and the consultations between ASEAN and their dialogue partners in Kuala Lumpur which ended on Wednesday. He will leave for Washington this morning.

The ambassador, in an interview with THE NATION, also warned that the passage of the revised patent bill to protect pharmaceutical products, which is one of the most contentious bilateral disputes at the moment, might not restore the soured relations to normalcy.

He said the United States had attached extreme importance to the revised act and would reject Thailand's attempts to amend the bill if it did not conform with all the main points that Thailand had on various occasions agreed to.

The proposed amendments of the Patent Act which appeared in the letter sent by Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on to US Trade Representative Carla Hills before Washington decided to upgrade Thailand to a country on the "hit list" on April 26 were still effective in Washington's eyes.

The letter which outlined the government's move to amend the patent law was part of an attempt to avert possible trade retaliation.

The ambassador said he was concerned that the negative consequences might outweigh the merits if the revised law did not correspond with Washington's understanding.

"The patience of both sides is running out. And it is very difficult to predict the US response in such an event," Phiraphong said.

The two sticking points involve the compulsory licensing conditions, in which the government may force patent holders to license their rights to other producers, and the transitional provision which determines whether the drugs undergoing clinical tests in the US, but not yet available in the Thai market, can be patented in Thailand.

Nevertheless, Phiraphong was of the opinion that Washington should lend a helping hand to Thailand in this difficult situation as the government is facing mounting pressure from domestic interest groups not to amend the act.

"As friends, you have to go and find out how you can help your friend overcome his difficulties when he finds himself in a difficult situation... it takes two (to solve the problems). You cannot clap with just one hand," Phiraphong said.

According to a ministerial source, Commerce Minister Amaret has postponed his unofficial visit to Washington from Sunday to early September, reportedly to hold talks with key American officials to avert possible retaliation after the first round of bilateral consultations at the end of last month between Bangkok and Washington on intellectual property rights failed.

A separate mission comprising senior commerce ministry officials is currently in China, another country on Washington's hit list, for close consultations.

Minister Reports on Call by U.S. Envoy

BK2507125091 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 22 Jul 91 p 3

[Text] Michai Wirawaithaya, the minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office, said to newsmen that the outgoing U.S. ambassador's call on him the other day made him realize that U.S. businessmen now viewed Thailand in a better light on several issues after the National Peace Keeping Council takeover of the national administration, such as on floating oil prices, import tax reform, and deregulation of certain industries. Moreover, they also felt that Thailand has attached greater emphasis on social issues and education, as indicated by the fact that the budget allocation for education is now greater than the defense budget, which was unprecedented.

Michai added that the U.S. position has changed considerably after having seen the new changes in Thailand. In any event, the delay in U.S. financial assistance to Thailand continues because U.S. law stipulates that assistance can only go to an elected government.

U.S. Envoy Bids Farewell to Prime Minister

BK2507133991 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] At Government House today, U.S. Ambassador Daniel O'Donohue called on Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun to bid farewell upon completion of his assignment in Thailand. Both sides discussed cooperation at bilateral and international levels. There has been good bilateral cooperation in narcotics suppression and negotiations toward a solution of trade disputes between the two countries. At the international level, the United States is pleased with Thailand's efforts toward a settlement of the Cambodian problem. There are now favorable trends toward a successful solution of this problem in the near future.

The new U.S. ambassador will be David Lambertson.

Official Criticizes West for Isolating Burma

BK2607010191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Jul 91 p A4

[Text] ASEAN considers the West's policy of isolation and pressure against Burma "wrong" which would "never" bring about any political change in the impoverished Southeast Asian nation, Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said.

Asa made the statement upon his return on Wednesday from Kuala Lumpur where he and other ASEAN foreign ministers were pressured by their western dialogue partners mainly the United States, Australia and the European Community, to press Burma for political change.

"Isolation of Burma is wrong. The Western approach towards countries in the region is not correct and will never bring about any domestic (political) change. No matter how much pressure is exerted, nothing will change. We think so, and we know Burma well," he said.

The foreign minister said ASEAN "was hard hit" on the issue during its meetings with Western dialogue partners who "accused us of exploiting (economically) Burma."

The task to convince Burma to change does not fall on Thailand alone, he said, adding that ASEAN is sending Philippine Foreign Minister Raul Manglapus as an ASEAN representative to convince the military leadership in Rangoon for the need for political reform which would be beneficial to Burma itself and the region as a whole.

Manglapus, who chairs the ASEAN Standing Committee, had already been invited by Rangoon but the date has not yet been finalized, said Asa.

While ASEAN tried in Kuala Lumpur to placate Western criticism of its stance on Burma, the All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF), the largest dissident student body, yesterday said it was "shocked" to learn that ASEAN countries had rejected calls for pressure on the Burmese junta.

The ABSDF said in a statement that the Western call was similar to its earlier appeal "to the international community to freeze aid and to exert economic pressure on the military junta."

Police Say 'Foreigner' Ordered Killing of Saudis

BK2407005991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Jul 91 pp A1-A2

[Text] A gang led by a foreigner and aided by certain Thai policemen was behind last year's murder of three Saudi diplomats which seriously damaged Thai-Saudi relations, the case's chief investigator disclosed yesterday.

Pol [police] Lt Gen Thanu Homhuan, commissioner of the Central Investigation Bureau, declined to say what had motivated the controversial slayings, but dismissed earlier theories that focused on international terrorism, conflicts involving labour export, personal affairs, diplomatic privilege, religious matters or drugs.

He said investigators were trying to find out whether the foreigner suspected of leading the gang believed to be responsible for the assassinations was still in Thailand or had fled the country. He refused to disclose the nationality of the suspect.

The foreigner, according to Thanu, has a Thai wife and two children.

"The latest investigations have shown that the foreigner ordered the killings himself and had two Thai accomplices carry out the executions," the officer said.

The gang specialized in harassing Saudis in Thailand, especially tourists, Thanu said. He did not elaborate.

The CIB chief was speaking at a news conference after a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Pao Sarasin whom he briefed on the progress of the investigation.

A newly-obtained major piece of evidence was recently given to investigators by the Saudi Embassy, Thanu said.

He described it only as a "document" stating that "the Thai Saudi Embassy staff was in danger".

Thanu said that in 1988, in a similar message, the Saudi Embassy asked the Thai Government to crack down on a gang which had harassed Saudi tourists.

Before his meeting with Pao, Thanu told reporters that he had no doubt that investigators had correctly identified the culprits.

"In my head I have the names of the killers," said Thanu.

He said the slaying was "an international scheme, not a personal affair".

Thanu said certain policemen were linked with the gang, making it "an influential syndicate". He refused to disclose the ranks of the suspected policemen.

The three Saudis were murdered in two separate attacks in Bangkok on Feb 1 last year. They were second secretary at the consular section "Abdallah Al-Bisri, 32, Fahd Al-Bahli, 35, an official at the consular section, and office clerk Ahmad Al-Saif, 26.

Thanu said he believed the gang suspected of slaying the three was also responsible for the killing a year earlier of the Saudi Embassy's third secretary. The victim, Salih 'Abdallah Al-Maliki, who handled visas for Saudi Arabia-bound Thai workers, was gunned down near his residence off North Sathon Road on Jan 4, 1989. One suspect was arrested, but the case was not solved.

"The victims were shot in the head at point-blank range from behind. The killers wore helmets and fled the scene in similar ways," Thanu said.

He quoted Pao and PM's Office Minister Kasem S. Kasemsi as saying that they would inform Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun of the results of the investigation.

"The prime minister will coordinate with the Saudi Embassy and in a few days there should be more progress," Thanu said.

Thenu said he believed the foreign suspect was not in Thailand now. He refused to say which country he was believed to be in.

He said representatives of the Saudi King met the investigating team two weeks ago and "expressed confidence that this government is doing its best" in the investigations.

Committee Acts on Plans for Cambodian Embassy

BK2507054591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Jul 91 p 4

[Excerpt] The government Screening Committee of Security and Foreign Affairs yesterday approved in principle the foreign ministry's plan to reopen the Thai embassy in Cambodia.

The committee agreed that the ministry find a new site for the embassy because the plot of land where it used to stand is too small, said committee chairman Deputy Prime Minister Pow Sarasin.

The details about the budget for the embassy reopening and the timeframe for the implementation of the plan have yet to be studied, said Pol [police] Gen Pow.

Thailand closed its embassy in Phnom Penh shortly before the communist Khmer Rouge seized the Cambodian capital in early 1975.

Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun had earlier told Phnom Penh House Speaker Chea Sim that Thailand wanted to be the first country to establish a diplomatic mission accredited to the Supreme National Council (SNC) in Phnom Penh. [passage omitted]

Deputy Foreign Minister on Boundary Talks

BK2507053591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Jul 91 p 2

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Wichian Watthanakhun left for Vientiane today for a three-day familiarization visit that would feature boundary talks on the unsettled "Ban Rom Klao" dispute.

Wichian, who cochairs a Thai-Laotian committee on boundry demarcation with his Laotian counterpart Souban Salitthilat, will preside over a fourth round of Thai-Laotian Technical Subcommittee on the disputed areas between Thailand's Phitsanulok province and Laos' Sayaboury over which both nations embarked on a bloody war 1987-1988.

Informed sources said the subcommittee would focus their discussion on geographical findings in accordance with legal documents based on the 1907 Siamese-Franco treaty and the relevant maps. The findings were the results of joint on-the-spot inspections of the disputed areas conducted several times from early last year.

Thais still argue that the Huang Nga waterway leading to Phu (hill) Khao Miang should be the demarcation line between the two countries while the Laotians insist on the Huang Pa nan waterway leading to Phu Soi Dow whch runs deep into Thai territory. What is involved here is 80 squares kilometres of forests and waterways which both countries are reluctant to give up.

During the visit, Wichian is expected to meet with Lao leaders including Foreign Minister Phoun Siapseuth, External Economic Relations Minister Phao Bounnaphon and Trade and Tourism Minister Khamphoui Keobualapha, according to the sources.

Wichian is expected to follow up Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin's talks in May with these leaders on bilateral cooperation in particular the joint committees on bilateral relations, on security along the common border and on boundary demarcation, said the sources.

They said the minister is expected to discuss the dates for the first meeting of the joint committee on bilateral relations with the Thai side proposing next month in Thailand's southern resort island of Phuket, said the source.

Constitution Committee Selection Reconsidered

BK2607013791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Jul 91 p 1

[Text] The Constitution-Drafting Committee will reconsider ways through which the controversial nine-man Constitutional Committee would be chosen, Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchupan said yesterday.

Mr Michai's statement came amid growing criticism and opposition to the draft constitution which retains the presence and power of the National Peace Keeping Council during the transition period leading to the establishment of the new elected Parliament and Government.

The draft constitution sets forth that the Constitutional Committee will be set up and empowered with wide authority to supervise elections and investigate into complaints against corrupt politicians.

Four government bodies—the House of Representatives, the Senate, the Government, and the Judiciary—will nominate two persons each as committee members.

But, the draft charter's provisional clauses state that the National Legislative Assembly [NLA] and the National Peace Keeping Council [NPKC] will nominate committee members for the Lower House and Senate respectively while the election has not been held yet.

Critics said the committee would perpetuate the control of the military council after the election.

Former Prime Minister M.R. Khukrit Pramot on Tuesday said the committee could be turned into a tool for parliamentary dictatorship.

Mr Michai, who chairs the charter drafting panel, said he would respond to the criticisms by considering the points made by M.R. Khukrit and having them corrected.

He said he would also reconsider the clause allowing members of the Constitution Committee nominated by NPKC and NLA to complete an eight-year term.

Critics suggested that after the general elections, the Lower and Upper Houses be allowed to nominate their representatives to sit in the Constitutional Committee to replace those appointed on their behalf by the NLA and the NPKC respectively.

They also called that the provisional clause of the new constitution be amended to scrap the summary power as set forth under Article 27 of the interim Constitution.

The Drafting Committee spokesman, Dr Adul Vichiencharoen, told reporters last night that the committee would discuss the planned nine-man Constitutional Committee at its next meeting.

He said, however, that he could not say for now whether changes would be made because the main points surrounding the nine-man body's roles, its membership and the method of its appointment had already been agreed in principle.

He commented, however, that Drafting Committee members were still eligible to propose changes.

He defended the proposed set up of the nine-man panel, saying that the panel had been initiated with an aim to ensure the stability of Thai politics in the long run.

"The Constitutional Committee is a special body which will be an independent and neutral agency which has a role in enhancing democracy and will work as a check-and-balance mechanism to prevent the political section from having too much power and being a threat to the country," Dr Adul said.

He said it's impossible that the proposed panel would turn into a political tool for the NPKC.

He said that the constitution clearly stated the qualifications of the persons who would be eligible to become its members.

The person who would be appointed must be a Thai by birth, at least 50 years old, a holder of at least a bachelor degree, have no political affiliation during the 10 year period before their appointment and must not be a member of Parliament or the Consitutional Tribunal.

These requirements would ensure that chosen persons would be neutral and would not be influenced by any persons.

A top NPKC member who talked on the condition of anonymity said last night that there needed to be a special mechanism to control, particularly the behaviour of the politicians, after the election.

Referring to the Constitutional Committee, the source said that the military needed such a mechanism because the future of the Thai politics appeared to be rather bleak.

Politicians, he said, were running after political parties which would field them in the general elections.

A certain party which offered to provide "new hopes" also appeared to be hopeless while another political party which claimed to have military support was now packed with "old face" politicians.

Vietnam

'Concrete' Proof of U.S. Pilot's Death

BK2607112191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1042 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Hanoi, July 26 (AFP)—Vietnamese authorities handed over to a U.S. envoy Friday new evidence "proving" that Colonel John Leighton Robertson is dead, a senior Vietnamese official said here.

Ho Xuan Dich, director of the foreign ministry's office for MIA (missing in action) research, told AFP that the two Vietnamese military documents were given to visiting U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Kenneth Quinn.

Mr. Quinn, who arrived here from Bangkok on a one-day visit, held talks with Vietnamese Vice Foreign Minister Le Mai on efforts to discuss claims that U.S. Servicemen could be held prisoner in Indochina 16 years after the war's end.

The MIA issue was propelled back into the spotlight last week by the release of a picture, purportedly taken last year, showing three men identified by relatives as pilots shot down over Indochina in the 1960s—including Col. Robertson. The U.S. Defense Department has already said it has serious doubts about the authenticity of the grainy black-and-white photo.

"We affirm that the three-person picture is false," Mr. Ho Xuan Dich said. "We provided some information proving that Mr. Robertson is dead."

The newly unearthed evidence, he said, consists of a log from the military commander of Hai Hung Province recording the crash of Col. Robertson's F-4 fighter-bomber in 1966, specifying that he was killed and his co-pilot captured.

Vietnamese authorities, who sent teams to scour provincial and central archives following a request early this week from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to investigate the photo, found a separate air defense document containing the same information, Mr. Ho Xuan Dich said.

Col. Robertson's remains have never been recovered. His co-pilot was freed and returned to the United States in 1973. The other two flyers purported to be shown in the photo were shot down over Laos.

Mr. Quinn, who left Hanoi later Friday for the Laotian capital Vientiane, said the "concrete information" provided by Vietnam would be sent back to Washington for analysis.

"As long as there's any chance that there are Americans alive, we're going to do everything we can to pursue it as rapidly as we can, and we've asked for help in investigating that," he said.

The U.S. envoy, who was accompanied by a U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency analyst and the two members of the U.S. MIA office in Hanoi, gave Vietnamese officials a copy of the publicized photo, as well as two others, according to Mr. Ho Xuan Dich.

Both are black-and-white mug shots of Caucasian men, and one contains the same date as that shown in the three-man picture.

"American servicemen's families ... have seen several photographs and identified the men in those photos as their loved ones," Mr. Quinn said after an earlier meeting with Mr. Ho Xuan Dich and Le Bang, deputy director of the foreign ministry's America Department.

"I was told the Vietnamese Government has taken steps to actively investigate these cases, and I expressed appreciation for that."

Mr. Ho Xuan Dich said he thought the two new photos were false, but he said Vietnam would cooperate in investigating them.

In the wake of recent progress toward peace in Cambodia, the MIA issue is emerging as the biggest obstacle to normalization of relations between the United States and Vietnam.

A meeting is planned for Sunday in Bangkok between Mr. Le Mai and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia Richard Solomon to discuss normalization, which would mean the end of a crippling 16-year U.S.-led trade embargo against Vietnam.

The Pentagon said Thursday that the controversial three-man photo could be false, but added that no final conclusion had been reached.

"One principal source of the photograph lies in a ring of Cambodian opportunists led by a well-known fabricator of POW-MIA information," a Pentagon spokesman said in Washington.

Vietnam, in an official statement, called on the United States to oblige those who furnished the photo to cooperate with the U.S. and Vietnamese Governments in investigating the matter.

The Pentagon lists 2,273 American servicemen missing in Indochina, including 1,656 in Vietnam, 528 in Laos, 83 in Cambodia and six in Chinese territorial waters.

Envoy to UN Discusses POW/MIA Issue

BK2607123791 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] On the afternoon of 24 July, at the headquarters of our country's permanent delegation to the United Nations in New York, Ambassador Trinh Xuan Lang, our country's head delegate, held a news conference on the issue of prisoners of war and soldiers missing in action [POW/MIA].

Before large numbers of journalists representing major news agencies, television, radio and newspapers in the United States and the world, Ambassador Trinh Xuan Lang read a statement by our delegation to the United Nations on the POW/MIA issue which stressed: Vietnam has more than once issued statements affirming that there are no U.S. prisoners detained in Vietnam nor are there any American volunteers staying in Vietnam.

In fact, as soon as the Paris agreement on Vietnam was signed in 1973, all American prisoners returned home. Vietnam has no desire to retain any American prisoners. On the contrary, we have cooperated with the U.S. Government to settle this issue.

U.S. NGO Gives Medical Aid to Hospital

BK2507070691 Hanoi VNA in English 0553 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 25—Mr. Allen J. Powers, representative of Friendship Bridge, a non-governmental organization [NGO] in the United States recently arrived in Ho Chi Minh City to present 16,300 kilos of medical equipment worth 2 million US dollars to the Children's Hospital No. 1 in the city.

In a meeting with a Tuoi Tre correspondent, Dr. Powers said, "Friendship Bridge is going on with its medical activities to help the Vietnamese people heal the wounds of war and improve their health..."

During his stay Dr. Powers visited several hospitals in Vietnam. He said, "Vietnam is in lack of many things. We think that the medical equipment we present to the Children's Hospital No.1 is not enough. Friendship Bridge will give more help to the hospital. We are helping the hospital in training work. One physician and two nurses of the hospital received a five-week refresher course in Colorado recently. Next month, another physician and another nurse will go to the United States for medical training".

Diplomatic Source Says PRC Talks Underway

BK2607002991 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Jul 91 pp A1, A2

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] China and Vietnam have agreed to resume normalization talks with a visit by a group of Vietnam's senior party leaders and a ministerial discussion in Beijing, said a diplomatic source in Hanoi.

Defence Minister Le Duc Anh, a powerful member of the Vietnamese Communist Party, together with Deputy Prime Minister Dong Sy Nguyen, who retired from the Politburo last month, will pay an official visit to Beijing beginning on Saturday to cement party relations.

In addition, the source, who was reached by phone, said Vice Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien is scheduled to hold a meeting with his Chinese counterpart, Xu Dunxin, in early August in Beijing to continue talks focusing on the improvement of relations between the two countries, strained since their border conflict in 1979.

The source said that Cambodian issues and territorial disputes in the South China Sea, as well as ways to expand bilateral trade links including the resumption of rail and airlinks, will top the agenda at the bilateral talks.

Besides defence, the 71-year-old Anh is also responsible for national security and is considered to be the person behind Vietnam's recent policy shift on Cambodia. He is also tipped to replace Vo Chi Cong, who retired as president.

The source said Anh's visit was coinciding with the opening of Vietnam's National Assembly, which begins its week-long discussion and approval of new legislation and the choosing of new Cabinet members.

In January this year, a delegation of the Vietnamese party visited Beijing to study China's economic experience and agreed on ways to improve ties.

A flurry of diplomatic activity between the two communists came in the wake of the progress made in Cambodia's peace talks, especially recent talks in Phatthaya and Beijing, and after overtures made by the Vietnamese Communist Party on the 42nd anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party.

Clear signs of a Sino-Vietnamese thaw came in the past two weeks, after Vietnam's Party Congress, as local media published articles extolling their bilateral relations. The government-controlled Chinese press echoed similarly.

The source said that the news of these important upcoming visits has not been reported in the Vietnamese press.

China has said that the 12-year-old border conflict remains the main obstacle to the improvement of Sino-Vietnamese relations. Efforts to improve relations resulted in little progress in the past two years, during which time the two countries began their normalization talks, even though they culminated in a clandestine summit in China's Chengdu last September.

Nien's visit will cap the third round of ministerial talks, after the breakdown of the second round last June. The two countries held their first ministerial talks since the 1979 border conflict in January 1989.

The source said some concrete improvements in their bilateral relations would soon be announced, such as the resumption of rail service linking southern China and northern Vietnam and flights between Hanoi and Beijing, which were severed after the border conflict.

—In another development, Vice Foreign Minister Le Mai is scheduled to arrive here today for a scheduled talk with Richard Solomon, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs.

The talks, which were first planned for Hanoi, will be held at the United States Embassy on Tuesday, the source said. Dang Nghiem Bai, director of Foreign Ministry's North America Division, was in Bangkok recently to prepare for the bilateral talks.

It will be the fourth round of US-Vietnamese bilateral talks since their first meeting in New York last August. In April, Washington presented a so-called "road-map", aimed at ending its current trade and economic embargo against Vietnam, which urged Vietnam to be more cooperative in the settlement of the Cambodian problem.

Paper Hails Progress Toward Korean Unification

BK2607095191 Hanoi VNA in English 0602 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 26—The army paper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN today reiterates the Vietnamese Government and people's full support for the just struggle of the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the occasion of the closing of the month for solidarity with the Korean people (July 27).

The paper says: "Many positive factors are giving impetus to the gradual settlement of complicated issues on the Korean peninsula, thus making the relations in Northeast Asia and the Asian Pacific region more and more healthy. However, there have also been many negative developments in South Korea caused by the South Korean authorities and the United States. South Korea and the United States still maintain a big army of more than 42,000 troops, more than 1,000 nuclear warheads, many squadrons of F-15 and F-16 jet fighters together with many military bases and modern technical equipment and weapons.

In 1991, in defiance of widespread protest the United States and South Korea carried out the joint military exercise "Team Spirit", involving no less than 140,000 troops of both sides. Meanwhile the South Korean authorities continue to brutally repress the peace demonstrations of the youth, students and other social strata in Seoul, Kwangchu and other towns and cities."

The paper notes that "the initiatives and fair and reasonable proposals put forth by the DPRK aimed at achieving peaceful and sovereign reunification of the country and transforming Southeast Asia into a region of peace, stability, friendship and cooperation are winning more and more support from public opinion throughout the world."

State Council President Congratulates Sihanouk

BK2507142991 Hanoi VNA in English 1407 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 25—State Council President Vo Chi Cong today congratulated Prince Norodom Sihanouk on his appointment as president of the Supreme National Council (SNC) of Cambodia.

In his congratulatory message, President Vo Chi Cong warmly welcomed and highly valued the results of the recent SNC meetings.

"The agreements reached by the SNC have opened fine prospects for national reconciliation in Cambodia for a peaceful settlement of the Cambodia issue," President Vo Chi Cong added.

Hun Sen Leaves Hanoi, Seen Off by Officials

BK2507144991 Hanoi VNA in English 1408 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 25 —Hun Sen, Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia left here for home today.

The Cambodian chairman arrived yesterday on the way home after attending the meeting of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia recently held in Beijing, China.

He was seen off by Le Duc Anh, Politburo member and secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee; Nguyen Co Thach, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister; and other high-ranking Vietnamese officials. Cambodian ambassador to Vietnam Uch Borit was among the farewell party.

Envoy Discusses Cambodia in News Conference

BK2507143391 Hanoi VNA in English 1354 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA July 25—Soviet Ambassador R.L. Khamidulin held a regular press conference here today.

The Soviet ambassador briefed on the current situation in the Soviet Union. He also reaffirmed the Soviet Union's support for the settlement of the Cambodian issue among the Khmer parties.

Do Muoi Receives Outgoing Bulgarian Ambassador

BK2507162091 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 23 Jul 91

[Text] On 22 July, Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, received (Jeno Zekov), ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Bulgaria to our country, who paid the chairman a courtesy call before leaving for home at the end of his tour of duty in Vietnam.

Chairman Do Muoi had cordial talks with Ambassador (Jeno Zekov).

Refugees Return Voluntarily From Hong Kong

BK2507151691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1323 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] Hanoi, July 25 (AFP)—Some 256 Vietnamese arrived here from Hong Kong on Thursday, showing that voluntary repatriation has resumed after a break of several months, a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) official said.

The resumption comes as Britain, Hong Kong, Vietnam, the UNHCR and the International Organisation for Migration are holding talks in Geneva on transferring Vietnamese refugees in Hong Kong to a centre in Vietnam under international supervision.

"We are expecting about the same number of Vietnamese to return at the end of the month, and we will have perhaps more than 1,000 next month," said Jacques Mouchet, the UNHCR representative here.

Mr. Mouchet said this confirmed voluntary repatriation was resuming after a sharp decline for months, mainly because of rumours that boatpeople in Hong Kong would be resettled in third countries.

According to the UNHCR, only 62 Vietnamese returned voluntarily from Hong Kong in March, 50 in April and 96 in May.

The same rumours also prompted a massive influx of new arrivals in Hong Kong during the past three months, Mr. Mouchet said, adding that the trend was now slowing.

"During the first part of July, fewer than 1,000 people arrived in Hong Kong and, if that is still high, we think the decline will continue until the end of the month," he said.

The UNHCR's latest figures show that 4,332 Vietnamese arrived in Hong Kong in June and 5,116 in May.

Diplomatic sources here said the Geneva talks were progressing well even if the participants were still only discussing principles before deciding on the establishment of the proposed centre.

"The discussions might be lengthy, even if the outcome—the creation of this centre—appears not to be in doubt," one diplomat said, predicting it would take months to set up the system.

"The aim of this operation is to induce those Vietnamese who have been denied refugee status permitting them to be resettled in a third country but who remain opposed to their repatriation in Vietnam to choose to return to their families rather than being in a centre without any prospect of leaving," one diplomat explained.

Catholics, Overseas Vietnamese Give Aid

BK2407131291 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 21 Jul 91

[Text] From the beginning of this year, the Catholics in Ho Chi Minh City have contributed more than 260 million dong to build social welfare projects.

Through the City Catholic Unity Commission, some overseas Vietnamese and charity organizations have helped to build some social projects such as: The Bung Sang Club in Ward Five, the Mau Giao kindergarten in Thu Duc, and a medical care office in subward 17 of Tan Binh.

Foreign Investment Projects Reviewed

BK2407144691 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 24 Jul 91

[Station "review of foreign investments over the past three years"]

[Text] In the last three years, the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment has granted permits to 217 investment projects. Total invested capital amounted to $1,500 million with an annual increase of nearly 30 percent. Operating projects are in various forms and on various scales, and almost half of the number are well on their way. These are mainly engaged in oil and gas; communications, transport, and postal service; agriculture; forestry; fishery; tourism; and services. Concerning oil and gas, 10 permits have been issued for prospecting and exploitation with invested capital totaling more than $460 million. Countries with participating corporations are Belgium, India, the Netherlands, Great Britain, France, Sweden, Australia, and Taiwan. Five contracts which were licensed before 1990 have completed surveys and shifted to drilling. Oil has been discovered and involved capital has amounted to more than $120 million. Projects on oil refining and petrochemistry also have good prospects.

In communications, transport, and postal service, 24 projects have been licensed with a total of over $142 million invested in port building, oil servicing flights and passenger flights. The joint-venture contract between the Vietnam General Department for Post and Telecommunications and OTC [Overseas Telecommunications Company] of Australia has produced good results. Now, after completing the first stage with an investment of $10 million, the two partners have entered into the second stage involving a capital of $80 million with a view to improving telecommunications between Vietnam and many countries as well as communications inside the country. A series of joint ventures on sea transport are operating quite well.

In agriculture, forestry and fishery, 60 permits have been granted with invested capital amounting to over $360 million. These projects are aimed at exploitation and processing for exporting regions where electricity and water are in good supply and where transport is convenient. A big part of this group consist of medium and small-sized projects and have yielded good results in forestry, farming, food and fiber processing in Hau Giang; processing of timber, rattan, and cane in Khanh Hoa, Dong Nai, and Ho Chi Minh City; and cultivation of marine produce in Quang Ninh and Hau Giang. An exception is made for two big projects for shrimp rearing on an industrial scale in five central provinces, and for eucalyptus planting and processing. These have not been off the ground yet because of financial difficulties.

In tourism and services, permits have been granted to 39 projects with an invested capital totaling over $300 million. So far, 28 have started, one has been completed, and 10 are still on the drawing board. The Saigon Floating Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City, in cooperation with Australia, is one of the most successful. This year will see the commission of four more hotels.

Agenda of Ninth National Assembly Confirmed

BK2607103891 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] The ninth session of the Vietnamese National Assembly, eighth legislature, is due to be held in Hanoi on Saturday [27 July].

This important session will bring into play the results of the seventh national party congress toward the political, economic, and social life of the Vietnamese people.

In preparation for this session, the National Assembly deputies met with voters to collect the people's opinions on issues relating to the contents of this session.

They also met to review the implementation of the eighth National Assembly resolution in their localities.

Between 23-26 July, the National Assembly Nationalities Council and Standing Committee met to prepare for verification reports on draft laws to be delivered at the National Assembly session.

It is reported that in addition to Vietnamese news reporters, 12 foreign newsmen who are present in Hanoi will cover this session.